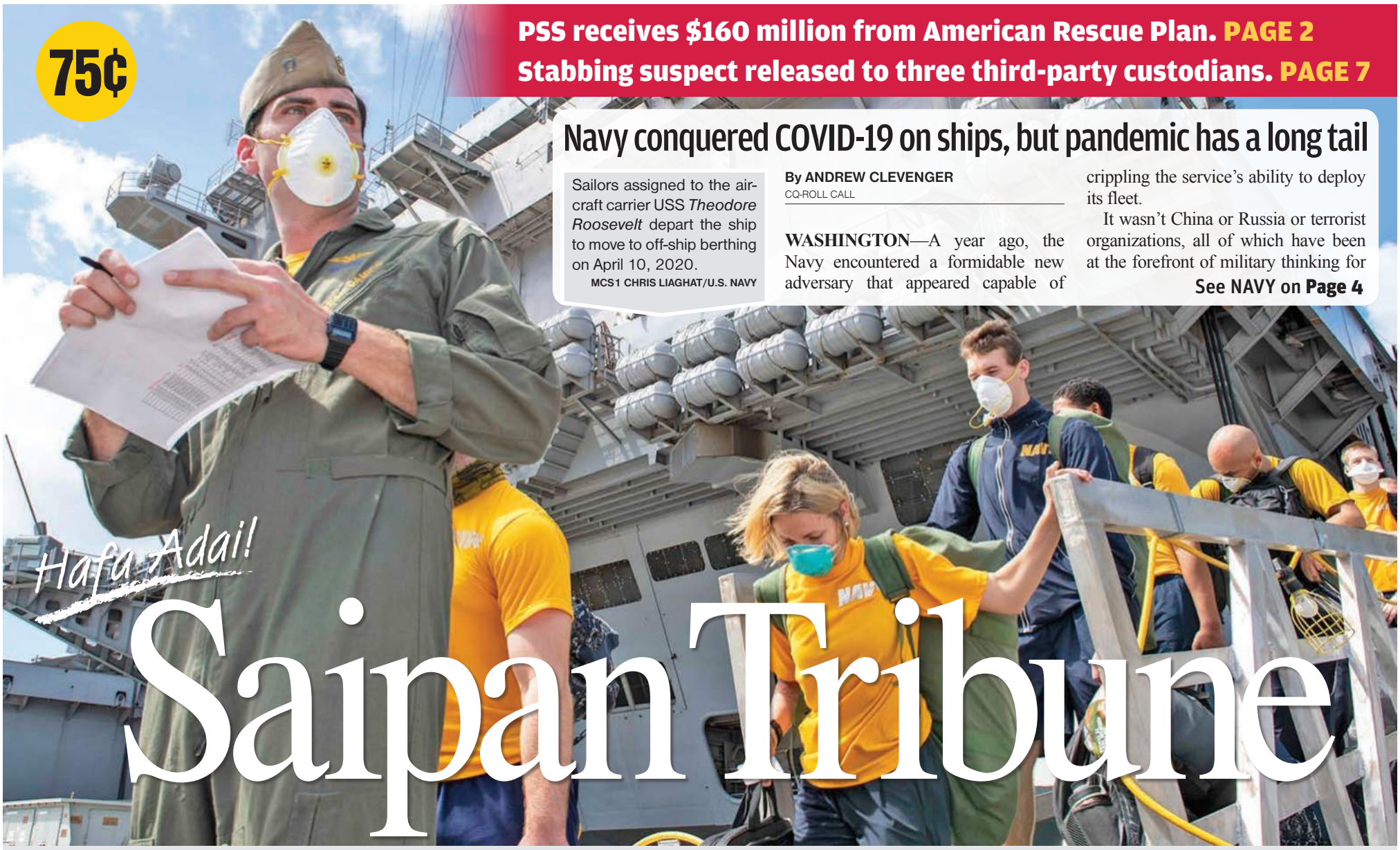
75¢

PSS receives $160 million from American Rescue Plan. PAGE 2
Stabbing suspect released to three third-party custodians. PAGE 7



Sailors assigned to the aircraft carrier USS *Theodore Roosevelt* depart the ship to move to off-ship berthing on April 10, 2020.
MCS1 CHRIS LIAGHAT/U.S. NAVY

Navy conquered COVID-19 on ships, but pandemic has a long tail

By ANDREW CLEVENGER
CQ-ROLL CALL

WASHINGTON—A year ago, the Navy encountered a formidable new adversary that appeared capable of crippling the service's ability to deploy its fleet.

It wasn't China or Russia or terrorist organizations, all of which have been at the forefront of military thinking for

See NAVY on Page 4

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune

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CONTACT TRACING YIELDS 2 more local COVID-19 cases

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Expanded contact tracing from the positive community cases identified over the weekend has resulted in the identification of two more positive COVID-19 cases yesterday, raising the CNMI's cumulative total to 156.

This means a total of 10 individuals have already been

See 2 MORE on Page 4

Torres optimistic spread will be contained

» **Governor says updated info is that it's still a cluster and not community spread**

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres expressed optimism yesterday that local authorities will be able to contain the CNMI's first cases of local transmission of COVID-19 in 204 days.

Torres also emphasized the

See TORRES on Page 4

2021 MISS MARIANAS
Savannah Delos Santos, third from the right, poses with, from left, 2021 Miss Marianas contestants Naomi Lizama Lilly Carillo, Vincent Rabasto, Toremy Diaz, Ha'Ane Eugenio, Bernadette Horey, and Richelle Ramon after being crowned the 2021 Miss Marianas during last Saturday's pageant at the Hyatt Regency Saipan Ballroom.
JULIA ESPINO, ISLAND IMAGE AND MOTION

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

AT A GLANCE

As of 7pm, March 15, 2021

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	7,767	6	7,773
Recovered	7,603	9	7,612
Active	21	6	27
Deaths	133	0	133
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			133,082

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	154	2	156
Traced via Travel Screening	121	0	121
Traced via Community Screening	33	2	35
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			26,131*
Days since last community transmission			0

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Saipan:	Tinian:	Rota:
Dose 1: 11,364	Dose 1: 743	Dose 1: 843
Dose 2: 8,670	Dose 2: 138	Dose 2: 347

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

INSIDE

BUSINESS
Mario Alvarez Jacob and his wife, Racquel, open Jacob's Bakeshop and BBQ in Garapan.

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ASIA
Myanmar's ruling junta has declared martial law in parts of the country's largest city.

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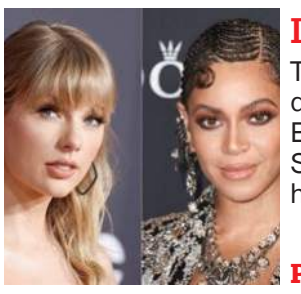

LIFE & STYLE
The Grammys are drunk in love with Beyoncé and Taylor Swift: the two made history this year.

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GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

PSS receives $160 million from American Rescue Plan

This Feb. 23, 2021, file photo shows Board of Education chair Andrew L. Orsini, second from right, Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred B. Ada, rightmost, and PSS Federal Programs Officer Tim Thornburgh, leftmost, after a meeting with Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP). PSS

Board of Education chair Andrew L. Orsini thanked Delegate Gregorio C. Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) yesterday for his efforts in helping the Public School System secure a $160-million grant included in the American Rescue Plan.

The U.S. Department of Education has a 30-day timeline to award the funds to PSS. Orsini said this is great news for PSS and provides assurance to classroom teachers, their students, and their parents that the federal government "has answered our prayers and come to our rescue."

The Board of Education chairman reiterated that this

» BOE chair Orsini, Education Commissioner Ada thank Kilili

is the third time this year that Sablan has responded to PSS' request for additional funding for the education of CNMI students and salary funds needed for the teaching and support staff of PSS.

Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred B. Ada noted that this is the third Education Stabilization Grant that Sablan has helped PSS secure, with the first being a $23.3 million Education Stabilization Fund grant that PSS received in May of last year and the second being the $61 million received in January this year. Ada said these three Education Stabilization Fund grants guarantees that all teachers and PSS support staff will not experience a single payless payday.

"On behalf of all educators, I want to congratulate Congressman Sablan for his tireless efforts in securing the much-needed federal funds to fill a huge hole in the local budget allocation for PSS," Ada said.

PSS Federal Programs officer Tim Thornburgh noted

See PSS on Page 4

Who is being vaccinated?
How do I sign up?
Vaccination is OPEN for individuals 50 years+ OR People working in:
Grocery stores, restaurants (including catering) bakeries, wholesalers, commercial farming and fishing
Gas stations , electric or other energy and utilities companies
Taxi, other transportation, and delivery
Construction, maintenance, or rehabilitation of critical infrastructure
Hotel/lodging, maintaining business plazas, recreational facilities, or public events including sports federations
Barbers, salons, and massage therapy
Banks or insurance companies
Trash collection and other waste services
Schools, daycares, and colleges
Media & Telecommunications
CNMI (State/Local) Government Employees (All agencies)
COVID-19 Contractors employed by the CNMI Governor's Task Force
Faith-based groups
Healthcare
REGISTER
ONLINE at vaccinatecnmi.com
Over the PHONE by calling 682-SHOT (7468)
Johnson & Johnson's Janssen COVID-19 vaccine is available for Saipan residents 65 years+
ONE SHOT & DONE!
We have 400 doses available
CALL 682-7468 TO RESERVE
VACCINATE CNMI CALL CENTER: Mon-Sat 8am-8pm & Sunday 8am-1:30pm
VACCINATE CNMI WEBSITE: vaccinatecnmi.com
@cnmichcc

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd floor-Oleai Joeten Commercial Center
Saipan, MP 96950

NOTICE TO ADJACENT LANDOWNERS ALONG WINDWARD/CHALAN KALABERA, ROUTE 36

CRM APPLICATION NO: SMS-2021-015
PROJECT: ROUTE 36 (WINDWARD-CHALAN KALABERA) IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
APPLICANT: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS (DPW)

The Department of Public Works (DPW), in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration (FHA) is proposing to construct road improvements along Route 36 Windward-Chalan Kalabera Road on the northeastern coast of Saipan.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Route 36 Windward-Chalan Kalabera between the Kingfisher Golf Course and Bird Island Lookout is a discontinuous rough coral road in various states of deterioration and lacking connectivity between the two locations. The purpose of the Route 36 Improvement Project is to widen, grade, and pave approximately 3.64 miles of existing road and to replace two drainage crossings at Unai Fanhang and Unai Nanasu by creating a continuous roadway connecting the Talofofo sector with the Marpi sector of Route 36. Restoring connectivity along Route 36 would complete a coastal transportation loop around the island. Benefits of improved connectivity are expected to include (1) improved transportation options during emergencies, (2) improve vehicular access to the northeaster portion of the island, (3) reduce travel times to reach the norther end of the island and the Marpi Landfill from Talofofo, and (4) reduce traffic volumes on arterial Routes 30 and 31.

The public hearing for this project is scheduled to take place on **Wednesday, April 7, 2021, at 5:00PM at the BECQ 2nd Floor Main Conference Room** on Middle Road in Lower Gualo, Saipan. Due to the ongoing threat of COVID-19 and to ensure the health and safety of all, virtual public participation is highly encouraged via video conferencing through Google Meet (https://meet.google.com/gsm-zurs-kca) or join via telephone by calling the DCRM Office at (670) 664-8300 for connection assistance. Google Meet access code may change. Please call DCRM for an update.

Written comments can be submitted by mail to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, P.O. Box 501304, sent by fax to 664-8315, or emailed to permitting@dcrm.gov.mp. Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Route 36 Road Improvement project.

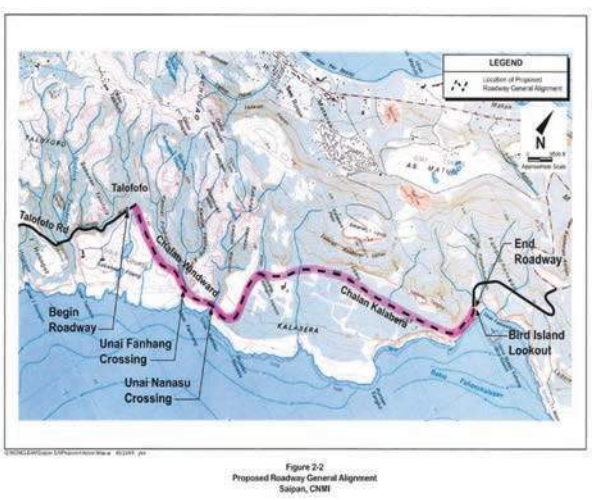

Figure 2-2
Proposed Roadway General Alignment
Saipan, CNMI

/s/ JAMES A. ADA
Secretary
Department of Public Works

PROPOSED ROUTE 36 (WINDWARD/CHALAN KALABERA) IMPROVEMENTS
Total Length = 3.64 miles

Non-NMD widow requests to inherit land

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho has set an evidentiary hearing on the petition of the non-Northern Marianas descent wife of the late associate justice Pedro M. Atalig to inherit land.

Nelida B. Atalig, the widow the late associate justice, filed a spouse's renewed petition for partial distribution last March 11 in the Superior Court for the NMI.

In Camacho's order, he said that due to the age and duration of the case, the previous distributions of estate assets, the issue of Article 12 and a non-NMD surviving spouse inheriting real property when there are NMD children who can inherit, the court has broad discretion to hold an evidentiary hearing, especially when an issue of law relies on factual determination.

Camacho issued an order granting a motion/evidentiary hearing on April 22, 2021, at 10am. All parties should present a testimony and evidence to the court and submit a basic family tree with full names (including middle names, maiden names, and/or married names), birth dates and death dates.

Joseph E. Horey, representing Nelida Atalig, said that, as a decedent's surviving spouse, she is entitled to one-half of all properties owned by the late associate justice.

"The properties listed in Appendix 1A contain a total of 300,509.3 square meters of land, meaning that Nelida is statutorily entitled to one half that amount, or 150,254.65 square meters; or, in the alternative, to an undivided one-half interest in the entire 300,509.3 square meters," said Horey.

Horey added that Nelida Atalig is only seeking interest in only 97,389 square meters and waives any claim to the rest.

"Nelida does not believe that she is actually under any legal obligation to provide any extra consideration to the estate in order to take the interest which she is legally entitled to inherit," said Horey, adding that Nelida Atalig will give up one-third of her total claim to be divided among other heirs.

2 arrested for alleged burglary of 2 schools

Two men have been arrested for allegedly burglarizing the Saipan International School and William S. Reyes Elementary School in early March. They are now facing two burglary and theft and conspiracy charges.

According to an affidavit of probable cause filed in the Superior Court, police said that Daniel Agulto, 28, and Edward Palacios Castro, 35, worked together to break into a container at SIS and took two generators worth approximately $1,449 each.

At WSR, the two allegedly broke into one of the classrooms by breaking into a small window. They then they took three flat screen TVs, a projector, and a Bose speaker, worth approximately $2,250.

According to police, Agulto and Castro have admitted to the burglary and theft incidents at the two schools.

Last March 12, Agulto appeared for a bail hearing before Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho, who imposed a $5,000 cash bail for each of the defendant's cases. Assistant attorney general Steve Kessel appeared for the government while attorney Robert Torres was appointed by the court to represent Agulto. ***(Justine Nauta)***

CONGRESSMAN GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN
Representing the People of the Northern Mariana Islands

presents

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CONGRESSIONAL ART COMPETITION

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THE WINNING ARTWORK WILL BE DISPLAYED AT THE U.S. CAPITOL FOR ONE YEAR

ARTWORK ELIGIBILITY

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Paid for by official funds authorized by the U.S. House of Representatives.

Anniversary
ONE DAY DEALS
Thursday, March 18
FREE
Cinnamon Roll
Buy 1 Get 1 FREE
Breakfast only - 6:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
McDonald's Travel Cup with a minimum purchase of $28
Offer is good while supplies last and is subject for substitution when inventory runs out.
Caramel Sundae
Buy 1 Get 1 FREE
FREE
Kids Cone for every Happy Meal Purchase
While supplies last.
Order in the App, pass the line with a tap
Three easy steps to order through the McDonald's App
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Download on the App Store
Order on your time
Use our App to pick out your favorite McDonald's items a la carte or make a meal.
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Pay using any major payment card. Your card will not be charged until you check in.
Pick up on your terms
Check in at any participating McDonald's restaurant to pick up your meal however you want—get your food brought to you Curbside, avoid the line Inside the Restaurant or grab it in the Drive Thru.
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Free Dementia Awareness Conference Series

The Guam/Micronesia Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program of the University of Guam's School of Health will be hosting a Dementia Awareness Conference Series over the next four weeks to provide education, training, and awareness on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias.

» Communities in Guam and all of Micronesia invited to attend

"Dementia can be overwhelming not only for those who have it, but for their caregivers," said Margaret Hattori-Uchima, dean of the School of Health. "With this virtual conference series, our hope is to improve the quality of life of our loved ones with dementia and of their families and caregivers."

The sessions are free and open to the public in Guam and all of Micronesia. The virtual conference series is divided into separate tracks for health professionals, the general public, and the Micronesian communities.

The series starts this week with the following sessions:

For health professionals:

"CARES® DEMENTIA-RELATED BEHAVIOR™: Introduction to Dementia-Related Behavior"

Presented by Veronica Alave, MSN/ED, RN

Time: 3pm – 5pm

Date: Tuesday, March 16

Registration link: http://bit.ly/gwephealthprofessionals

**Continuing Education Units are available as part of this track.*

For the Micronesian communities:

"CARES® DEMENTIA CARE FOR FAMILIES™: Understanding Memory Loss"

Presented by Margaret Hattori-Uchima, PhD, RN, and Kathlina Martin, MSW

Time: 6pm – 8pm

Date: Wednesday, March 17

Registration link: http://bit.ly/gwepmicronesiacommunity

For the general public:

"POSITIVE APPROACH TO CARE®: Maintain Your Brain: Dementia Risk Reduction and Life After Diagnosis"

Presented by Melanie Bunn, RN, MS, GNP

Time: 10 a.m. – Noon

Date: Thursday, March 18

Registration link: http://bit.ly/gwepvirtualconferenceseries

About the Guam/Micronesia Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program

The primary goal of Guam/Micronesia Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program is to transform the health systems serving the region's elderly and individuals with Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias, resulting in improved quality of life.

The program aims to fill gaps in elderly care in the region through:

- workforce development
- family and caregiver training
- engaged community networks and partnerships
- enhancement of the University of Guam nursing assistant training program.

For more information on GWEP programs and services, contact Bruce San Nicolas at brucesn@triton.uog.edu or Tricia Nguyen at nguyent@triton.uog.edu. ***(PR)***

2 MORE

From Page 1

identified as a community cluster of COVID-19 cases, according to a Governor's COVID-19 Task Force statement. This includes the 147th case last Friday, 148th, 149th, and 150th cases on Saturday, 151st, 152nd, 153rd, and 154th cases on Sunday, and the 155th and 156th cases yesterday.

"This is an evolving situation, and updates will be made available as the COVID-19 Task Force and [the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.] continue to confirm results and information as part of this investigation," said the statement.

Despite this development, the task force and CHCC said there is no high-risk for community transmission.

According to the CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña, over 50 people have been identified through contact tracing and everyone have been tested, resulting in the confirmation of the new cases.

Additionally, CHCC yesterday was able to test approximately 200 individuals, including the community-based testing at Kanoa Resort and inbound flight. Muña said that testing ended at 4pm yesterday and that test results takes six hours to process, so the results will be announced later. CHCC will continue its CBT today until March 19 from 1pm to 4pm at the Kanoa Resort in Susupe.

In a text message interview, Muña encouraged people to prioritize their health. "Not delaying your care when you need it not only ensures you stay healthy, but it also contributes to the strengthening of our health system," she said.

During the emergency press conference last Saturday, Muña urged people not to panic, saying that a year ago today the CNMI didn't have the "tools" that the CNMI now has to contain and identify cases quickly. This includes the COVID-19 testing kits that amounted to over 60,000 and some, three testing platforms—BioFire, Abbott ID Now, and the polymerase chain reaction test, personal protective equipment for the island, and more.

"This is the new normal. We need to remember that three W's is not going away soon [and] it is something that we have to be prepared for. …As we continue to vaccinate more people, the whole goal is to try to ensure that we are [all] protected from severe illnesses," said Muña.

While she doesn't advise a lockdown for now, Muña said that that ultimately would be up to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

In a text message, she encouraged people to avoid unnecessary trips and limit gatherings to close family and friends. "The mitigation efforts CHCC and the task force put in place are there to keep the CNMI safe. Let's continue to be vigilant and enforce them," Muña said.

Similarly, Governor's COVID-19 Task Force chair Warren Villagomez said those who are were in contact with the recent cases should comply with the contact tracers.

"I'm asking the community to work with our contact tracers and ease the pressure that they already have in making sure that you know we're getting through the situation we're in," said Villagomez.

TORRES

From Page 1

need to allow the proper entities to complete their investigation, do the contact tracing and testing, among other steps.

"I believe that we will contain the situation and I need our community to only listen to the appropriate media outlets," he said.

So far, 10 people have been confirmed positive for local transmission of the virus.

The governor also disclosed that their updated information is that these positive cases are still a cluster and not a community spread.

Last Friday, *Saipan Tribune* asked Torres about Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang's request to hold a full-blown but controlled Fourth of July Liberation Day celebration. The governor's response at the time was he supports it as long as their projection continues at the rate they're going, with the vaccination rollout increasing to 80% - 90% by the time of the Liberation Day in July.

"So, at this moment, if our projection continues, I don't see why we shouldn't. It's actually a time to celebrate," he said.

Torres said their success in the vaccination rollout in the community is a moving target. "So for the community…we all want to have that Liberation. Let's continue to push hard on getting everybody vaccinated," he said.

Due to the pandemic, last year's Fourth of July Liberation was a one-day very limited on-the-ground celebration.

Apatang recently requested approval from COVID-19 Task Force chair Warren Villagomez and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther L. Muña to hold this year five consecutive evenings of activities at the Garapan Fishing Base and a full-day celebration on the Fourth of July, instead of the traditional nine-day festivities.

NAVY

From Page 1

the past decade. Rather, the adversary was the fast-spreading and deadly COVID-19 pandemic.

But thanks to strenuous efforts to mitigate the impact of the virus on ships and submarines, largely put into place after a shipboard outbreak sidelined an aircraft carrier, the Navy has maintained an ambitious tempo of operations and kept its assets deployed as it saw fit.

"It's extremely impressive how few outbreaks we've seen on ships, and how the ones that we have had have been pretty quickly addressed," said Bryan Clark, a retired Navy officer who now heads the Center for Defense Concepts and Technology at the Hudson Institute. "Early on, my concern was how is the Navy going to be able to handle this."

Those worries were widespread and well founded at the start of the pandemic. At the end of March 2020, just weeks after U.S. residents began isolating and sheltering in place as the virus spread rapidly across the country, three sailors tested positive on board the USS *Theodore Roosevelt*, one of four aircraft carriers based in the Pacific, which had just left Vietnam.

Despite the immediate removal of the three infected sailors from the *Roosevelt*, the virus spread among the crew, eventually infecting nearly 25% of the ship's crew of 4,800 and resulting in one sailor's death. The TR returned to port in Guam, where much of the crew was quarantined in hotel rooms, but soon the captain's impassioned email pleading for more resources leaked to the press.

In the ensuing tumult, the Navy fired the captain, and the acting Navy secretary resigned after having flown across the world to deliver an erratic speech to the crew. It was a very public black eye for the Navy, and it took a multibillion-dollar asset temporarily out of commission.

But it also served as a wake-up call about the threat posed by the virus, said Virginia Rep. Rob Wittman, the top Republican on the House Armed Services Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee.

"If they didn't take things seriously, they would essentially be out of the naval deployment business," said Wittman, recalling his concerns as the virus spread on board the *Roosevelt*. "To the Navy's credit, they hunkered down and got it done."

The challenge faced by the Navy was formidable since warships and submarines, with lots of sailors crammed into small spaces with limited opportunity to isolate, create transmission-friendly environments.

"It's almost impossible to prevent illnesses from getting around the ship, so we've sort of just become habituated to it," said Clark, who served aboard submarines.

The Navy's mitigation efforts included quarantining entire crews for two weeks before and after deployment, canceling port calls once underway, and extending deployments.

The Navy quickly imposed mandatory restrictions, like requiring masks and making bars and restaurants off-limits for sailors, with potentially career-ending consequences if rules were broken, Wittman said. It also required personnel to quickly report a positive test result up the chain of command, and it began contact tracing immediately.

After the *Roosevelt*, Wittman said, the Navy got it right.

"They did a quick 180, and within a month the Navy knew exactly what it needed to do," he added.

But these measures do come at a cost, Clark noted. Without port calls, ships are not receiving any maintenance while underway, which when combined with longer deployments means the material condition of the fleet is likely to suffer.

"It's a huge imposition at a time when the Navy is already very stressed" by deployment demands to the Middle East, Asia and elsewhere, Clark said.

Lingering problems

The pandemic has, however, hampered the Navy's ability to provide proper training for all of its personnel, said Wittman. While training may not be as much of a priority as keeping ships deployed, neglecting it can still have tragic consequences.

"It wasn't that long ago we had the McCain and the Fitzgerald where you had casualties due to shortfalls in training," he said, referring to two Navy destroyers involved in separate collisions in 2017 that resulted in the deaths of 17 sailors.

Extended deployments, with the Navy trying to get as much mileage out of a ship and its crew once it is at sea and presumably clear of the virus, also run the risk of burnout among sailors, said Clark. This could lead to retention problems in the future, particularly if the economy heats up and there is competition for workers with technical backgrounds.

So far, the added burdens placed on sailors have not damaged morale, Clark said. The vaccine, he added, came just in time before the sailors and the fleet began fraying noticeably.

PSS

From Page 2

that these Education Stabilization Fund grants "will not only pay for salaries but can also be used to pay for the sanitation supplies needed at our schools to clean every classroom every school day."

Further, Thornburgh stated that the Education Stabilization Funds can pay for the HVAC services needed for school air conditioners, technology such as laptops, iPads, MiFis, pay for mental health services, and a whole range of education services that directly benefit student learning and classroom teaching.

Sablan's work as the U.S. House chairman of the Education Subcommittee on Early Education and K-12 Education, according to Thornburgh, enabled Sablan to earmark funds that directly benefit both public and private schools.

Ada said these three rounds of the Education Stabilization Fund come just in time and will greatly benefit the 10,052 students, teachers and the parents of public school students. ***(PR)***

Higher mandatory prison terms for school burglars pushed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Senate floor leader Sen. Vinnie F. Sablan (Ind-Saipan) has introduced a bill that will establish higher mandatory sentences for crimes committed within schools and youth centers.

Under Sablan's Senate Bill 22-28, a person convicted of committing a crime against a person or property within the premises of a school and/or youth center shall be subject to a mandatory minimum prison term of not less than one-half of the maximum term of the charge he or she is found guilty, or five years, whichever is greater.

The prison term shall be imposed without the possibility of parole.

Sablan said yesterday that the CNMI's school system has made great efforts in providing students much needed equipment and materials to learn in these unprecedented times. He said the COVID-19 pandemic has required the school system to retrofit classrooms and make substantial adjustments in providing the children an effective learning environment and a significant amount of resources has been expended to ensure that students continue to receive quality education.

"It is saddening that they have become victims [of] individuals who choose to take from the little resources our students have," Sablan said.

The senator introduced the same bill when he was a member of the House of Representatives back in 2016. The legislation just never made it out of committee at the time. Sablan now chairs the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation.

Sablan stated in the bill that schools and youth centers are establishments that are intended to provide a stable and positive environment for parents and children.

"When criminal acts occur within their vicinities, parents, students, and staff become deeply troubled and are often traumatized due to the exposure [to] the devastating damage," he said. Therefore, Sablan said, proper measures must be implemented in order to deter such acts from occurring and allow for these schools and youth centers to continue contributing to the Commonwealth by providing beneficial environments to the youth.

500 Sails to celebrate canoe's 10th birthday

By NEIL FAMA
neil_fama@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The nonprofit organization 500 Sails is inviting the public to an open house to celebrate the 10th birthday of the 47th-foot canoe *Che'lu* on Friday, March 26, 2021 at the 500 Sails Boatyard in Lower Base.

The celebration, to be held at the old Procurement building next to the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, will feature *Che'lu*, a beautiful 47-foot wooden traditional canoe called *sakman* that weighs 5,600 pounds. She is painted in the traditional colors of achote red and black. The event will also feature six other canoes in various states of completion. These canoes include: *Ladahao, I Marianas, Auntie Oba* (for Jacob Seman), *Animiyu, Dinga,* and *Hagåtña.*

According to a 500 Sails press statement, *Che'lu* began as a dream in 2006, when the non-profit Sakman Chamorro Inc was formed and in-depth research was collected about Chamorro *sakman*. Fundraising started when the Dolphin Club, San Francisco held a fundraiser to support the Chamorro Flying Proa Relay Team that successfully swam from England to France in 2007 to raise funds to build a *sakman*.

Sakman Chamorro Inc. was not able to start the project, so an alternative plan was needed. A chance meeting at a Chamorro event put master carpenter Mario Borja (who was born on Saipan) and canoe researcher Pete Perez (whose father was born on Saipan) in touch and they dove into deep discussions about the 1742 Anson drawing of a *sakman* that was drawn on Tinian by Englishman Piercy Brett. They agreed for the project to be transferred to Che'lu Inc, a San Diego nonprofit, and Borja would build the canoe. In 2009, a Mendocino redwood log was purchased and shipped to San Diego. The log was blessed and construction began. Many hours of discussion began between Borja and Peter about construction details.

On March 25, 2011, *Che'lu* was finished. She sailed in the San Diego harbor and was eventually shipped to Guam in preparation for the 2016 Festival of the Pacific Arts, where she first touched the waters of Guam, joining canoes from all over Micronesia.

Che'lu became part of the 500 Sails fleet in 2019 and came to Saipan from Guam under the watchful eyes of master navigator Cecilio Raiukiulipiy, who looks forward to captaining *Che'lu* on her first sail to Pagan once she has passed sea trials. Both Borja and Perez were part of the group that brought *Che'lu* home to Saipan, along with Henry Maly, April Repeki, Ray Alvarez, and others. Borja went home to San Diego briefly, with plans to return and get *Che'lu* on the water for her sea trials; all plans were cancelled when the pandemic hit.

The 500 Sails crew anticipates Borja's return as soon as safe travel is possible. Until that time, *Che'lu* has been in the 500 Sails boatyard with her sisters waiting for Borja. Everyone agreed that *Che'lu* will not be touched without her father here to help with the transition.

500 Sails is grateful to all the hands and hearts that have brought *Che'lu* to life, and to partner Indigenous Affairs Office for hosting us in the 500 Sails Boatyard.

For more information, email info@500sails.org, follow 500 Sails at https://www.facebook.com/500SailsDolphinClubSaipan, or call 500 Sails Co-Founder Emma Perez at 670-285-4268.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE ESTATE OF RITA KAIPAT,	CIVIL ACTION NO. 90-0840 [PROPOSED] ORDER AFTER HEARING

This matter came before the Court on February 9, 2021 at 9:00 am. Attorney Colin M. Thompson appeared on behalf of Administratrix Catalina Tebit and Attorney Janet H. King appeared on behalf of the *Estate of Carmen R. Guelles.* Attorney Thompson reported that at this time, Decedent's property interest cannot be determined by the title company and there are other individuals claiming ownership for Lot 1772New-2, Lot 1772 and E.A. 297. The Court finds that In rem jurisdiction is proper and that Lot 1772New-2, Lot 1772 and E.A. 297 is property over which this Court must resolve and oversee the "disposition of property." *In Re The Matter of the Estate of Hillblom,* 2011 MP 5 at ¶ 13; citing Pennoyer v. Neff, 95 U.S. 714, 734 (1878)(in an action to quiet title or to determine the ownership interests in real property, in rem jurisdiction is appropriate).

Based on the facts presented and the documents filed in this case, the Court orders Administratrix to serve this Order to all interested parties by publication in a newspaper of regular circulation for four consecutive weeks. Administratrix shall also serve Triple J Enterprise the Motion to Amend Inventory and Order After Hearing. The hearing on Administratrix's Motion to Amend Inventory will be heard on April 6, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. Interested parties are ordered to appear before the Court to present their claims.

SO ORDERED this 25th day of February, 2021.

/s/ **HONORABLE WESLEY M. BOGDAN**
Associate Judge

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4 UOG students named finalists in Truman Scholar competition

Four University of Guam students have been named finalists for the 2021 Harry S. Truman Scholarship, a $30,000 federal graduate fellowship granted to U.S. undergraduate students who demonstrate leadership potential, academic excellence, and a commitment to public service.

The students are four of 193 finalists out of a record number of 845 applicants from colleges and universities throughout the United States and the territories.

Choay

Flores

Mendiola

Palaganas

The finalists from UOG are:

■ Muturwan Choay, political science and communication double major

■ Nolan Flores, political science and CHamoru studies double major

■ Kehani Mendiola, criminal science and public administration double major

■ Aria Amore Palaganas, business administration major

"I am so honored to be a Truman finalist,» Mendiola said. «Knowing that some of our nation's greatest leaders support and believe in the work I am doing is extremely gratifying and validates that I am on the right path to creating positive change.»

As finalists, they interviewed last week before a panel of the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation, which administers the award, to compete for one of 65 scholarships.

This is the first time Guam has submitted a full roster of four applicants and the first time all of its nominations were selected as finalists.

"This is a significant accomplishment, and we, as a community, have a lot to be proud of," said Associate Professor of Public Administration John Rivera, UOG's faculty representative for the Truman Scholarship. "Really, this shows the potential our students have. It also shows the capacity we have and what we have to offer the world and our nation with regard to the level of our future leaders. This is not an easy process, but true leadership rarely is an easy process. I promise you that their journey has just begun, and I am excited to see where they will go."

The 2021 Truman Scholars will be announced at 5pm ET on Wednesday, April 14.

Each Truman Scholar will receive funding for graduate studies, leadership training, career counseling, and special internship and fellowship opportunities within the federal government.

Established by Congress in 1975 as the living memorial to President Harry S. Truman and national monument to public service, the Truman Scholarship carries the legacy of the 33rd president of the United States by supporting and inspiring the next generation of public service leaders.

The University of Guam is one of 74 Truman Honor Institutions in the nation because of its dedication and successful track record to the Truman Foundation and the commitment of its young people in pursuit of careers in public service. The university earned the designation in 2009 through the leadership of Associate Professor of Public Administration Ronald McNinch.

The University of Guam has had 18 Truman Scholars to date.

The complete list of 2021 finalists can be found at https://www.truman.gov/whats-new/2021-truman-finalists. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Community and Cultural Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950
Tel. (670) 664-2587 • Fax (670) 664-257

CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND (CCDF) PROGRAM
2021 SUMMER PROGRAM GRANT

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Program announces an opportunity for non-profit, community-based organizations to participate in a Summer Program Grant for Summer 2021. This grant is open to organizations that offer Summer Programs to all school-aged children between the ages 6 to 12 years old. For this grant, a total of six (6) awards will be provided, 4 awards for Saipan, 1 for Rota, and 1 for Tinian. CCDF has the right to award smaller grant awards as appropriate. CCDF Summer Program Grant Application Packets maybe picked up at the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Program Office, Building No. 1347 Ascension Court, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

Interested applicants should submit one (1) original and three (3) copies of the completed application and requirements, sealed and marked: CCDF Summer Program Grant Application 2021. Attention: Maribel Loste, CCDF Administrator.

All applications must be stamped received no later than April 15, 2020 4:00p.m. Incomplete applications will not be accepted and will be returned.

CCDF will only accept written inquiries regarding this grant opportunity and should be addressed to Maribel Loste, CCDF Administrator on or before 4:00p.m. on March 22, 2021. Inquires maybe sent via:

1. Hard copy and submitted to the CCDF Office Bldg. No. 1347 Ascension Court Capitol Hill or
2. Email at mloste.cnmiccdf@gmail.com with the subject: **CCDF 2021 Summer Program**

All inquiries made after March 22, 2021 will not be entertained.

/s/ Maribel Loste
CCDF Administrator

/s/ Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero
DCCA Secretary

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Karidat Thrift Shop closed

Due to recent COVID-19 outbreak, the Karidat Thrift Shop will be closed until further notice. Our Karidat window services is also limited so we advise the community to call our office numbers at 234-6981 or 234-5248 before coming to our window so that we can better assist you. Please wear a mask and practice social distancing. ***(PR)***

Scheduled power outage on Thursday

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the public that there will be a scheduled power service interruption on Thursday, March 18, 2021, from 8:30am to 12:30pm for customers on Tuturam Drive in San Vicente. CUC will temporarily shutoff the power within the affected area to safely perform a system upgrade and relocate primary/secondary wires and service drop lines to the right-of-way and to install three transformers onto the previously relocated primary power poles in Tuturam Drive.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Hotline (236-4333) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***

CHamoru Commission meeting set

The *Kumisión i Fino' CHamoru yan i Fina'nå'guen i Historia yan i Lina'la' i Taotao Tåno'* (Commission on CHamoru Language and the Teaching of the History and Culture of the Indigenous People of Guam) will hold its second March monthly virtual meeting on March 18, 2021, Thursday, from 12:30pm to 3:30pm on a Zoom link. Email Kumisión board secretary Rosa Salas Palomo for Zoom Link Information, special accommodations, and agenda at (kailee.rosapalomo@gmail.com) and/or commission administrator Anna Marie B. Acreo, at (sainaguinifi@gmail.com). ***(PR)***

GUAM & COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

WEBEX MEETING MARCH 23, 2021

U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs
Honolulu Regional Office - Public Contact Team

Will host a Virtual Benefits Workshop for Veterans, Family Members, Surviving Spouses, and Community Providers
on
TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 2021

From
4PM-6PM (GUAM & CNMI LOCAL TIME)

To participate please join us in Cisco Webex by clicking or copying and pasting the below links into your browser:

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https://veteransaffairs.webex.com/veteransaffairs/j.php?MTID=mb0b8a640dcac3959519cac00d571f644

You can join via Computer, Phone Audio (1-404-397-1596, 1992703428##), or Webex Mobile App

Benefits Workshop Topics:
Compensation, Pension, Education & Training, DIC, Survivor Benefits, Loan Guaranty, Veteran Readiness & Employment, Burial and Plot Internment Allowance, Burial Flags, & Insurance

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP21-CHCC/AOC-COVID-19-002

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: MARCH 22, 2021 TIME:10:00AM (CHST)

"CHCC COVID-19 VACCINATION COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & S UPPLY

Stabbing suspect released to three third-party custodians

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man accused of using a broken wine bottle to stab someone was released to three third-party custodians last Friday in Superior Court.

Fernando E. Galban, 45, was released to three third party custodians: his pregnant wife and his two neighbors who live next door to him. In this case, the third-party custodians will act as guardians who will make sure that Galban goes to and from work to his home in Tropex Garden in Finasisu.

Associate Judge Wesley M. Bogdan also ordered Galban to pay $500 of the $5,000 bail and placed him under house arrest.

In his declaration of probable cause to support an issuance of an arrest warrant, police detective Buddy Igitol said the victim sustained several lacerations from the altercation.

"Injuries were observed on the anterior ankle with visible tendon damage, one laceration on the forearm, bicep, puncture wound in the right anterior ankle with tendon injury, and large laceration on the right lower leg," Igitol added.

According to court documents, Galban was with several individuals last Jan. 12 and they were drinking and singing karaoke at the Finasisu residence when the incident happened.

Reportedly, one of the men had reprimanded Galban about his flirtatious behavior with one of the women at the get-together and told him to show respect to the woman's boyfriend.

According to the victim, Galban shoved and kicked him, grabbed a bottle of wine and hit his head with it, shattering the bottle. Another man told police that he saw Galban take the broken wine bottle and stabbed the victim's right leg with it while he was still on the ground.

In a written statement to the police, Galban said he moved closer to the woman because the volume of the music was loud and he wanted to have a conversation with her.

Galban said the victim was attacking him verbally and physically, so he attempted to hit the victim with a bottle of wine, but the bottle slipped from his hand and shattered on the floor. Galban said the guy then stepped on the shattered bottle while attempting to get to him.

UOG gets grant to develop database of CHamoru language learning resources

Recognizing the need to make instructional resources about the CHamoru language and culture more accessible to the community, the Inetnon Lalåhen Guåhan—the Young Men's League of Guam—presented the University of Guam with a $25,000 grant last March 3 to develop an online open-access database for such resources.

The multi-phased project will include:

■ Collecting, organizing, and digitizing CHamoru language and culture learning resources that have been produced over the last 50 years;

■ Making the materials available by grade level and subject categories in an online database; and

■ Working with a cadre of CHamoru language instructors to create and edit existing resources that meet the immediate needs of CHamoru language instruction in the Mariana Islands.

The University of Guam will partner with the CHamoru studies divisions of both the Guam Department of Education and the CNMI Public School System to gather, archive, and digitize the resources they have created for CHamoru instruction. The university will also seek to partner with other organizations, government agencies, language experts, and educators who produce language and cultural resources that can be included in the database.

"As a non-profit, we have always focused on what can we give to our people," YMLG president Johnny P. Taitano said during the grant presentation. "We're humbled to be a part of this project."

YMLG has a long history of supporting the promotion and perpetuation of the CHamoru culture, language heritage, and identity through active engagement with the community and support of other cultural groups and organizations.

In 2019, the YMLG Committee on Cultural Preservation, headed by Carlos T. Laguå'ña and Wilfred Leon Guerrero, approached Monique Storie, dean of University Libraries at the University of Guam, and Victoria-Lola Leon Guerrero, the managing editor of the UOG Press, with an interest in creating a program that ensures resources that teach the CHamoru language are accessible to educators through a centralized source at the university. Over the last two years, they have worked together to develop this project with the goal of providing accessibility to existing language and cultural resources and preserving the rich cultural knowledge found in them.

The database, which will take about three years to develop, will allow the university and YMLG to actively promote the availability of CHamoru language and cultural resources to the local, regional, and worldwide communities. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
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Website: www.developcnmi.com

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
2021-CDA-03-RFP
Closing Date: Thursday, April 15, 2021 Time: 10:00 a.m.

PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF VIDEO CONFERENCE SYSTEMS

Copies of the proposal package may be picked up at the Commonwealth Development Authority office, 2nd Floor, Unit 205, CDA Building, Beach Road Oleai, Saipan, during regular working hours, Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTIONS 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ MANUEL A. SABLAN
Executive Director

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
Acting Director, Division of Procurement Services

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP21-CHCC/AOC-COVID-19-001
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: MARCH 20, 2021 TIME:10:00AM (CHST)

"CHCC VACCINATION CALL CENTER"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

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EDITORIAL

Save the US Postal Service! (Sort of)

In a twist of fate and odd timing during the coronavirus pandemic, the United States Postal Service has managed to demonstrate through its inefficiencies its value. That's right. Residents across the U.S. are clamoring for mail delivery from the independent, federal agency that has been trying to prove its relevance for nearly two decades.

Since the pandemic hit U.S. shores last year, mail service has been slower and, in some cases, halted altogether due to USPS staff shortages and an overwhelming spike in the need for delivered goods. At four post offices on the South and Southwest sides of Chicago, mail delivery has gotten so far behind, residents are getting desperate for their medications; they're late paying their bills; and some are still waiting for Christmas presents.

It's frustrating for anyone who relies on snail mail for the essentials. Post office failures have drawn rebuke from Illinois Sen. Dick Durbin, U.S. Rep. Bobby Rush, D-Ill., and others whose unhappy constituents are lighting up their phone lines.

But in an odd way, the Postal Service stumbles have highlighted the need for the post office, a relic that has been struggling to stay relevant in our increasingly digital world of online bill paying, Facebook messaging and online banking options. Who needs to send a check through the mail when you've got Venmo?

But millions of people still rely on the post office to communicate with loved ones and to receive prescriptions, employment checks and important documents—in addition to the piles of advertisements and solicitations. The outcry from residents here and far, some standing in long lines in frigid temperatures, demonstrate its relevance.

This is a moment for the post office not to step back, but to get from Congress what it needs to be more efficient: flexibility.

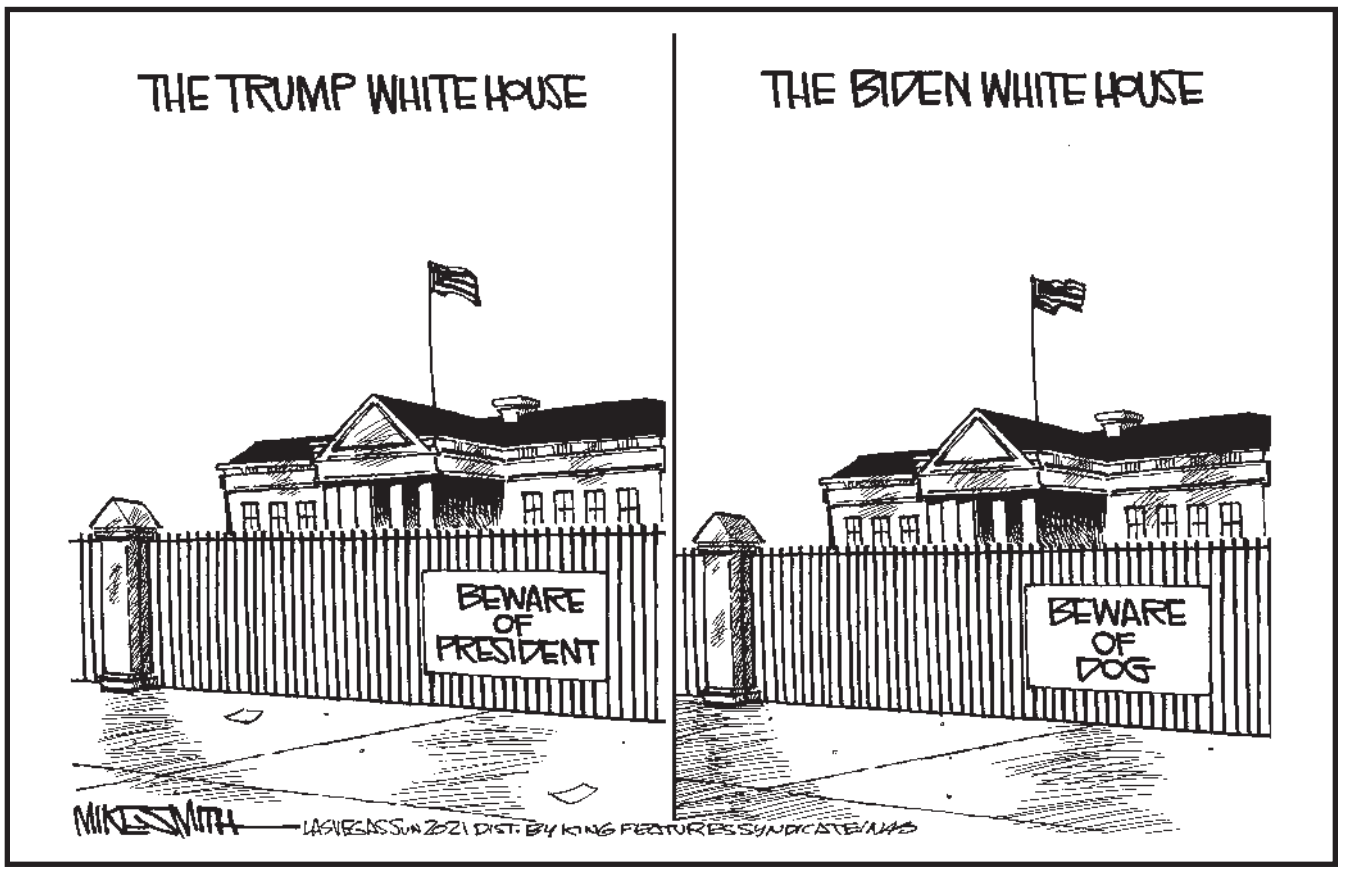
Ten years ago as it became obvious fewer people were buying stamps and using first class mail services, the Postal Service begged Congress to let it be more limber. USPS is largely a self-funded agency. In 2011, as it looked at its balance sheet, the Postal Service considered eliminating overnight delivery; reducing the number of underused post offices and partnering with stores instead; and getting rid of Saturday deliveries.

Congress said no—including Durbin and others who put up roadblocks to several cost-saving ideas identified by USPS. The Postal Service must adapt to our new high-tech world, and it's now up to Congress to come up with a plan. In the Senate, I believe we are close to finding a comprehensive plan that will save jobs, cut costs and still maintain one of the best postal services in the world," Durbin said in 2012.

But Congress did not come up with a plan, at least not one that worked. The Postal Service continued to lurch, long before the coronavirus illuminated more clearly its inefficiencies.

From Bloomberg columnist Joe Nocera in 2018: "One way the Postal Service hoped to save money was by ending Saturday delivery. Congress said no. At a time when it was losing billions in 2011 and 2012, it proposed closing rural post offices and moving mail delivery to local stores. Congress said no. A few years ago, the Postal Service suggested offering

See SAVE on Next Page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Is the dream of owning a home losing its appeal?

By SAMUEL J. ABRAMS
Los Angeles Times

Samuel J. Abrams is professor of politics at Sarah Lawrence College and a visiting scholar at the American Enterprise Institute.

Casual visitors to the United States could be forgiven if they thought that this country was obsessed with real estate and houses. Turn on the television and it is impossible to miss the wall-to-wall shows featuring people looking for their dream house, renovating fixer-uppers, flipping houses and countless spinoffs.

It is hard to overstate the centrality of one's home in the American psyche. The Hollywood sign in Los Angeles was an advertisement for a new housing development. More than 7 million new homes were built in the last decade alone. Housing construction and improvements are big economic drivers, and unstoppable sprawl has altered the landscape in nearly every metro area in this country.

The government itself has promoted the benefits of homeownership, and scholars have chronicled Americans moving from cities to suburbs to exurbs in pursuit of land of their own. And many aspects of civic life and property ownership have been closely linked.

In the post-war era, homeownership became the aspired norm as the nation became suburban and experienced a baby boom, and numerous financial incentives were put in place to promote and finance homeownership. But while homeownership has long been considered a vehicle for building wealth, it is not necessarily what most people think the American dream is all about.

A new national poll from the Los Angeles Times and Reality Check Insights asked respondents to rate various components for whether they are essential to realizing the American dream. Only 45% of Americans believe that owning a home is essential.

In fact, freedom of choice in how to live one's life (80%) and one's ability to have a meaningful family life (76%) far surpassed amassing wealth and career success as being essential to achieving the American dream. Being able "to retire comfortably" was the only other factor that was viewed as essential by more than half the respondents. Traditional metrics of success are no longer salient: just over a third (38%) of Americans believed that doing better than their parents was essential; only 13% thought becoming wealthy was essential. Freedom and family were rated the most important pillars for the American dream by the largest margins in every racial and ethnic group.

There were, however, some small distinctions — for instance, 82% of Black respondents say that a good family life is essential to the American dream, compared with 76% for white respondents.

And though owning a home is less important for most people, views on homeownership are not uniform. One of the surprising findings is the difference in how older and younger generations see homeownership.

Many media stories have promoted the idea that young Americans value experiences more than "stuff." But this may not be true when it comes to housing. It turns out that 57% of people between 18 and 29 believe homeownership is still an essential part of the American dream. Yet it is less and less important for older generations. Only 41% of those ages 50 to 64 and the 39% of those 65 and older feel the same way.

It may be that older Americans, many of whom have already owned a home, realize that ownership is not so important. (The age-based difference on homeownership is not reflected in other things, such as a desire for a good family life.)

There are some racial and ethnic differences when it comes to valuing homeownership, too. Some 53% of Black respondents, for instance, say that owning a home is essential, compared with 42% of whites and 46% of Latinos. But variance by income and party identification is minimal, although people with less education are more likely than those with college degrees to say that it is essential to own one's home.

Women are more likely to say homeownership is essential compared with men (48% to 41%), which supports an increasingly clear trend of single women buying their homes and focusing more on wealth accumulation at higher rates than men.

Despite some demographic differences in attitudes toward ownership, the reality is that for many people, success is not centered on owning a home, material gain, being in a better financial position than their parents or professional achievement for their own sake. Social factors related to the family and lifestyles are more dominant in their views of attaining the American dream.

For instance, 87% of people over 30 who are married believe they are either living or are on the way to achieving that dream, compared with 68% of single people over 30. Interestingly, people's views are not much dependent on whether they live in the suburbs, where homeownership is high, or in urban centers, where homeownership is lower.

In a nation awash in consumerism, signals of status and wealth are omnipresent in the social media world, hurting our collective mental health. The focus on our homes and their luxuries seems relentless, but those things may not be what drives Americans when they wake up in the morning. The new data provide optimism that families and the freedom to make life choices are comfortably at the center of the American dream.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

COVID relief bigger than World War II budget? Sounds right

By TIMOTHY L. O'BRIEN and NIR KAISSAR
BLOOMBERG OPINION

President Joe Biden signed a $1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief bill on Thursday that brings total federal spending to combat the pandemic over the last year to about $6 trillion. He also plans to tee up a huge infrastructure outlay of about $4 trillion over the next 10 years on roads, bridges, tunnels, energy grids, strategic industries and other needs.

That's a lot of money. And it's raised the hackles of Biden's critics. They're concerned that those trillions amount to dangerous overreach, will saddle the government with gargantuan, unmanageable debt and will eventually produce rampant inflation. Just look, they say: It's more than the U.S. government spent fighting World War II!

Indeed it is. In inflation-adjusted dollars, the U.S. spent about $4.1 trillion waging World War II. It also spent more than $300 billion each on World War I and the Korean War, and $738 billion on the Vietnam War. The bill for the wars the U.S. has waged in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, is $2.3 trillion and counting. All told, the U.S. has spent about $7.9 trillion on warfare since World War I.

Well, we're at war again, as Biden's predecessor and others have routinely noted of the yearlong battle against COVID-19. So the comparison with World War II is apt. Going to war requires being on a war footing, including a willingness from the federal government to flex its ample fiscal muscles in response to the pandemic's economic and social devastation.

It's also worth remembering that it was government spending on World War II that ultimately lifted the U.S. out of the Great Depression, not the well-meaning, necessary but often experimental and scattered New Deal initiatives that preceded it. Federal spending on defense represented about 40% of gross domestic product by 1945. By comparison, the $6 trillion Congress has committed to fighting COVID-19 represents less than 30% of current GDP.

In addition to winning the war, that spending helped bring new people into the labor force and fostered public-private partnerships that spawned manufacturing and technological innovations. Despite fears among some analysts that World War II outlays might set back the economy after the war, they ushered in one of the largest economic expansions in history and helped provide the foundations for unprecedented middle-class growth and prosperity.

One of the most common criticisms of Biden's bill is that it will cause inflation to skyrocket, but that argument is grounded more in theory than data. There isn't an obvious link between spending and inflation. The Federal Reserve more than tripled the size of its balance sheet after the 2008 financial crisis, spurring constant fearmongering about inflation. And Congress has run huge annual deficits since then—yet inflation has remained stubbornly below the Fed's 2% target. Japan's central bank has been trying to stimulate and spend its way to higher inflation for three decades without success. The reality is that no one knows exactly what causes inflation to jump.

Many inflationistas are haunted by the stagflation of the 1970s, which featured an unusual combination of high inflation and unemployment. Inflation climbed above 13% by 1980, exceeding anything before or since in modern times. Importantly, those were the days before big, bold Fed interventions and federal deficits. While the money supply expanded in the 1970s, that expansion was not meaningfully higher than the one that came after the financial crisis, so the surge of inflation in the 1970s can't be linked cleanly to spending. The more likely culprits were a pair of energy crises ignited by oil embargoes.

While the amount of money flying around has swelled more in the last year than in any other during the 1970s or since the financial crisis, there's no indication that the $9 trillion Congress and the Fed have spent or committed is stoking a worrisome spike in inflation. The core consumer price index rose less than expected last month and 1.3% during the last year. Overall CPI was up just 1.7%. If anything, inflation is running too low. While longer-term inflation expectations have risen over the last year, they remain only slightly above the Fed's 2% target.

As we have argued frequently, there are reasons to criticize the federal relief effort. The government could have spent significantly more to help working Americans and build a better safety net beneath consumers whose spending traditionally generates about 70% of the country's GDP. More of the funding should have gone directly to workers rather than being channeled through businesses. One of the key shortcomings in COVID-19 spending so far is that only a fifth of the aid went directly to individuals. The money could have also gone a long way toward badly needed investment in infrastructure, education and public health.

Regardless, we don't think that inveighing against the Biden plan for its size has merit. Unlike previous installments of COVID-19 spending, it does more to prioritize direct relief for low-income and working-class Americans. Exactly how relief money is targeted matters as much, if not significantly more, than the amount.

This isn't Biden's first battle, either. He was in the trenches during the government's response to the financial crisis. In the interests of bipartisanship, the Obama administration settled for relief spending of less than $1 trillion. It was crafted to meet the needs of Wall Street and corporations but did little to help ordinary Americans. That tepid fiscal response put a much-needed stimulus effort in the hands of central bankers here and abroad, who ultimately had to use monetary policy to keep economies afloat. That was a useful Band-Aid, but economic growth suffered. Average workers, meanwhile, were cast adrift with social and political consequences we're living with today.

To be sure, the realities of all of this recent spending have to be recognized, including the contribution made by a huge tax cut for the wealthy and corporations that Republicans engineered. But theoretical arguments about the optimal size of the federal debt or the impact of spending on inflation shouldn't trump real and obvious problems Biden's relief bill will address.

Biden has learned his lessons from the financial crisis. He's going big this time, and he's not letting false gestures from Republicans about bipartisanship get in his way.

Timothy L. O'Brien is a senior columnist for Bloomberg Opinion. *Nir Kaissar is a* Bloomberg Opinion *columnist covering the markets. He is the founder of Unison Advisors, an asset management firm. He has worked as a lawyer at Sullivan & Cromwell and a consultant at Ernst & Young.*

SAVE

From Page 8

banking services, especially to people of moderate means. Congress said no. It suggested a series of other proposals to move into other lines of business. This is something postal services in Europe have done with great success. Congress said no."

Lending federal (taxpayer) money to an inefficient postal service is not the answer. Flexibility is. Now is the time to leverage the demand from consumers and get congressional mandates off the back of USPS. To make the service better—not with more money but with flexibility. On that question, Congress needs to say yes.

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Dr. Seuss cut loose: Is letting a book go out of print censorship?

By LAURIE HERTZEL
Star Tribune

Laurie Hertzel is the Star Tribune*'s senior editor for books. Email: books@startribune.com.*

There are so many things in this world to be outraged at. Insurrection, brutality, systemic racism, gerrymandering, child abuse, anti-maskers, domestic violence.

So to be outraged over a few Dr. Seuss books going out of print? Please. That is nowhere near the top thousand outrageous things.

Actually, it's not even on the list.

The big book news earlier this month was that six of the rhyming picture books for children written by Theodor Seuss Geisel—the man we all know as Dr. Seuss—will go out of print because they contain racist and offensive material.

Moments after the news came out, so did oodles of disinformation. (Disinformation: another thing to be outraged by.) So here are a few things I hope you already know:

Books go out of print all the time, and when that happens it is not "censorship."

The folks in charge of a writer's literary estate make decisions about what is to be done with that writer's work, and their decisions are not always popular—witness the estate of Harper Lee publishing "Go Set a Watchman," a book she firmly had not wanted published.

The decision to let six of Geisel's books go out of print was made by Dr. Seuss Enterprises. It wasn't made by the government, or Amazon, or your local bookseller or library. It wasn't the mythical Deep State. It was Geisel's estate, and the estate calls the shots.

Also: The books aren't being destroyed. They are merely going out of print, which means that new copies will not be published going forward. But there are already millions of copies of these books out there, and if you are determined to find a copy, you can easily do so.

Geisel wrote more than 60 books. Some of them are wonderful. But some of them reflect his outdated and offensive views.

In the original version of "And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street," he drew a caricature of an Asian person with a pigtail and wooden shoes. He drew slanty slashes for eyes and tinted the person's skin bright yellow. He called this person a "Chinaman."

In 1978, Geisel altered the image—removed the pigtail and the yellow tint, changed "Chinaman" to "Chinese man"—but I'm not sure it's significantly better.

Let's look at "If I Ran the Zoo," another book that is going out of print. In that book, there are not just offensive caricatures of Asian people ("helpers who wear their eyes at a slant") but deeply offensive depictions of African people wearing grass skirts and topknots while barefoot and shirtless.

Honestly, I don't know why the estate didn't make this decision a long time ago.

You might remember the Dr. Seuss books fondly. You likely first encountered them when you were tiny and loved and being read to by someone you adored—a parent, a grandparent, an older sibling. The memories of these books are sentimental and happy.

The stories have a rhyme scheme and cadence that stick in the mind and help a child learn to sound out words and read. But I challenge you to look at these books today and tell me that these representations of people are perfectly fine.

I've heard it argued that this can be a "teachable moment"—to share the book and point out how these illustrations are no longer appropriate. To that I say, get real.

You might make an argument for using "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" as a teachable moment for high school students. But a toddler who is nestled in your lap listening as you read aloud?

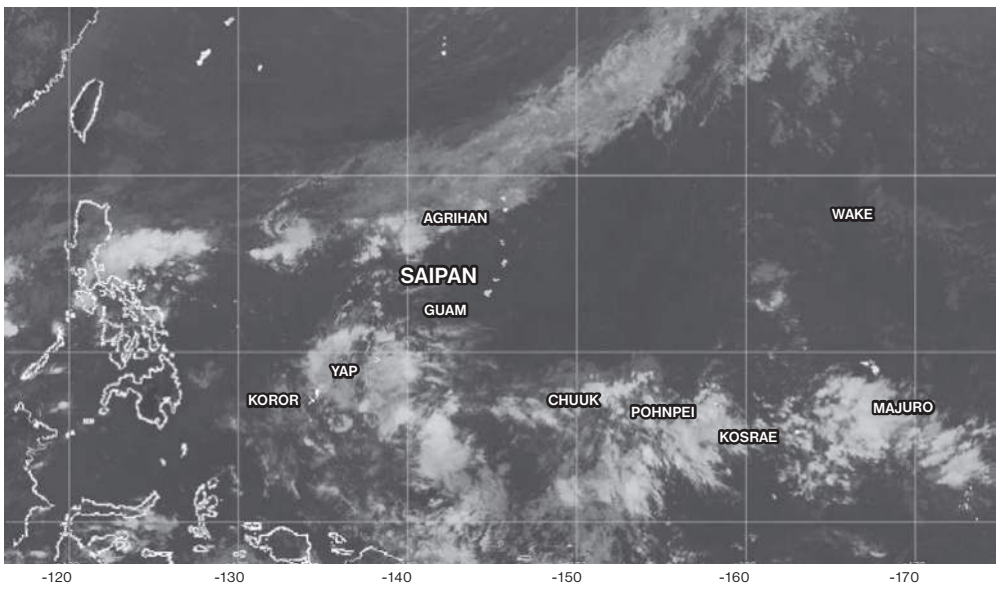
There are so many other great books that you can read to your grandchild—some of them are even by Dr. Seuss. Let's let these six go.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
87° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:00 AM, MONDAY, MARCH 15, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Infrared satellite imagery shows partly cloudy skies and isolated showers over the Marianas waters, with more of the same stretching all the way to 160E. There is a shear line near Pagan, however it has lost most of its southward momentum and is nearly stalled. The buoys reveal combined seas of 5 to 7 feet, composed mainly of northeast and east swells mixing.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Overcast	85 | 77 °F
Palau	Overcast	84 | 77 °F
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	82 | 71 °F
Chuuk	Overcast	82 | 79 °F
Pohnpei	Overcast	80 | 77 °F
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	85 | 78 °F
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	79 | 69 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:24 AM	6:27 PM
Wednesday	6:23 AM	6:27 PM
Thursday	6:22 AM	6:27 PM
Friday	6:22 AM	6:27 PM
Saturday	6:21 AM	6:27 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	8:09 AM	8:44 PM	-
Wednesday	8:45 AM	9:32 PM	-
Thursday	9:22 AM	10:20 PM	-
Friday	10:01 AM	11:10 PM	-
Saturday	10:44 AM	-	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Clear	70 | 54 °F
Beijing	Clear	63 | 34 °F
Hong Kong	Scattered Clouds	67 | 63 °F
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	82 | 69 °F
London	Mostly Cloudy	58 | 42 °F
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	84 | 56 °F
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	90 | 76 °F
Melbourne	Clear	91 | 74 °F
Miami	Partly Cloudy	73 | 51 °F
New York	Clear	27 | 21 °F
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	51 | 40 °F
Paris	Overcast	55 | 39 °F
Pusan	Clear	55 | 31 °F
Rome	Clear	67 | 40 °F
Salem	Overcast	59 | 52 °F
San Francisco	Clear	77 | 51 °F
Seoul	Clear	54 | 28 °F
Tokyo	Overcast	44 | 37 °F
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	32 | 21 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
3:32 AM	Low Tide	0.39
9:25 AM	High Tide	1.71
3:57 PM	Low Tide	0.40
9:49 PM	High Tide	1.64

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- ❏ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- ❏ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ❏ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ❏ Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 5, 2021

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	6:55am	7:35am	1, 5, 6
UA117	7:00am	7:40am	4

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	6:55am	9:50pm	1, 5 via Guam

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

UA183	8:00pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	5:10am	5:51am	1, 5, 6
UA174	5:15am	5:56am	4

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	10:55pm	5:56am+1	3 via Guam
UA184/174	10:40pm	5:51am+1	5 via Guam

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:40pm	4:30am+1	5
UA184	10:55pm	4:45am+1	1, 3

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 9, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sun

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sun

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Business

Jacob's Bakeshop and BBQ opens in Garapan

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Mario Alvarez Jacob has always idolized Manny "Pac-Man" Pacquiao. It also helps that the 43-year-old has an uncanny resemblance to the eight-division world champion.

The Philippine senator had his humble beginnings kneading bread in the Philippines and Jacob has followed in his footsteps, working in several bakeries since arriving on Saipan in 2000.

Then the native of Mindoro started his own bakery in Garapan, called Jacob's Bakeshop and BBQ, last year on Dec. 11.

He said initial plans was to put up a bakery with his wife, Racquel, but after careful thought they decided to include a barbecue stand to take advantage of the local community's love for Filipino grilled meats.

"My wife just wanted a bakery to make bread, pastries, and cakes, but I said 'we need to grill barbecue in the evenings because a lot people on island love barbecue' and besides it's very inexpensive at a dollar a stick," he said.

Jacob said he and his wife didn't had any second thoughts about opening Jacob's Bakeshop and BBQ even as COVID-19 continues to takes a toll on the local economy.

"We opened Jacob's Bakeshop and BBQ as a family business and also to help and serve the Saipan community during this…situation. We… have the lowest prices and make freshly baked pastries every day," he said.

On what makes Jacob's Bakeshop and BBQ different from other bakeries and barbecue stalls on Saipan, Jacob said aside from keeping their prices low and churning out fresh bread everyday, their barbecue also has a unique taste and one of the cheapest on island.

MARK RABAGO
Jacob's Bakeshop and BBQ is located along Flores Rosa St. in Garapan.

With the business going three months strong, Jacob's Bakeshop and BBQ's bestsellers have been their pandesal ($1 for six pieces), ube pandesal ($1 for three pieces), donuts (75 cents each), 16-inch pizza ($13.99 and free delivery for two pies), and barbecue skewers (pork, chicken, and isaw at $1 each). They also have pearl shakes at $4 each. Jacob's Bakeshop and BBQ's is also open for catering.

"All businesses are affected by this COVID situation. It's the same here as we're also affected because there have been no tourists at all. Good thing the local community is the one supporting the businesses and I would like to thank everyone, including my friends and relatives, for patronizing us despite being new," said Jacob.

On why he didn't name his business after the Philippine senator and boxing legend, Jacob said everyone already knows him as the Pac-Man of Saipan and it's about time that everybody gets to know him by his real name.

Jacob's Bakeshop and BBQ is located along Flores Rosa St. in Garapan. It's open from Monday to Saturday, 6am -11am and 2:30pm-9:30pm. For more information or for orders, call 233-1876 and 785-0325.

Owner Mario Alvarez Jacob could be Manny "Pac-Man" Pacquiao's doppleganger. MARK RABAGO

Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel: (670) 234-9447/6866
03/15/21

PUBLIC NOTICE

This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD funds.

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST A RELEASE OF FUNDS

This notice shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or after March 30, 2021, the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Honolulu Field Office, for the release of Corornavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) Public Law 116-136, enacted on March 27, 2020, to undertake the following activity and purposes in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Project/Activity Type	Purpose	Location	Total Project Cost
Proposed Expansion of the NMHC Building	Client Intake and Interview Booth in observance of COVID-19 Safety Protocols.	Garapan, Saipan	Approximately $100,000.00

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has determined that the above-listed projects will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Central Office in Garapan, Saipan and may be examined or copied during regular work hours, Monday through Friday except CNMI or Austerity Holidays, from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. or you may access the ERR at the NMHC website at www.nmhcgov.net by clicking on the Public Notice/Announcement Tab titled "Environmental Reviews"

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation. You may submit comments from the following options: Via mail to P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Direct delivery to the central office in Garapan, Saipan or drop-box located in front of the building; and Via email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net. All comments received by March 30, 2021, 4:30 p.m., will be considered by the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commentors should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands certifies to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD Honolulu Field Office that the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Governor Ralph DLG. Torres consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process, and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development HUD Honolulu Field Office acceptance of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and related laws and authorities, and allows the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands to use Program Funds.

OBJECTION TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development HUD Honolulu Field Office will accept objections to its release of funds and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands certification for a period of fifteen days following anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if it is on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands; (b) the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient has incurred cost not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of the release of funds by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures of 24 CFR Part 58 and shall be addressed to Mr. Jesse Wu, Director of Public Housing via email at jesse.wu@hud.gov. Potential objectors should contact the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

/s/ Ralph DLG Torres
Governor, CNMI

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp

Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

Janice E. Castro
Director, DCRM

PUBLIC NOTICE

MEETING OF THE CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios through the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) hereby give notice that a CRM Agency Officials meeting will be held on ***Friday, March 19, 2021, 2:00PM*** at the BECQ 2nd Floor Conference Room, in Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.

Due to the ongoing threat of COVID-19 and to ensure the health and safety of all, virtual public participation is highly encouraged via video conferencing through Google Meet (https://meet.google.com/nyc-axtr-rvu) or join via telephone by calling the DCRM Permitting at (670) 664-8300 for connection assistance. Google Meet code may change. Please call DCRM Permitting for an update.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
   A. Call to Order
   B. Roll Call
   C. Adoption of Agenda
   D. Adoption of February 05, 2021 Meeting Minutes

II. PERMIT APPLICATION REVIEW
   1) CRM Permit Application No. TMS-2020-X-082
   Project: TINIAN DIAMOND CASINO & SUITE PROJECT
   Applicant: Bridge Investment Group, LLC — *Bridge Investment Group, LLC (BIG) is proposing to construct the Tinian Diamond Suite building on Lot No. 080 T 18, a Ferry Ticketing Center and an Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) on Lot No. 080 T 06. BIG will be converting the former ferry terminal building into the Tinian Diamond Casino and is situated on Lot No. 016 T 01. The projects are located at the Tinian Harbor in San Jose, Tinian.*
   a. Agencies' Discussion
   b. Agencies' Final Determination
   2) CRM Permit Application No. SMS-2017-X-111-A1
   Project: ISA VILLA II DE, LLC
   Applicant: Isa Villa Partners, LLC — *Isa Villa Partners, LLC is proposing to downsize the proposed Phase II of Isa Villa II De, LLC project. The project is being downsized from the original permitted design plans from 86 unites to 4 buildings with 74 units. Project is situated on Lot No. 150 E 30 in Capitol Hill, Saipan.*
   a. Agencies' Discussion
   b. Agencies' Final Determination

III. OTHER MATTERS
   1) Revision to NMIAC 15-20, Water Sports Regulations

IV. ADJOURNMENT
   All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony regarding the above agenda items. (NOTE: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session).

/s/ JANICE E. CASTRO
Director, DCRM

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
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Eli D. Cabrera
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Janice E. Castro
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PUBLIC NOTICE

MEETING OF THE CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios through the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) hereby give notice that a CRM Agency Officials meeting will be held on Thursday, April 8, 2021, 9:00AM at the BECQ 2nd Floor Conference Room, in Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.

Due to the ongoing threat of COVID-19 and to ensure the health and safety of all, virtual public participation is highly encouraged via video conferencing through Google Meet (https://meet.google.com/jtr-rntv-sgu) or join via telephone by calling the DCRM office at (670) 664-8300 for

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
   A. Call to Order
   B. Roll Call
   C. Adoption of Agenda
   D. Adoption of March 19, 2021 Meeting Minutes

II. PERMIT APPLICATION REVIEW
   1) CRM Permit Application No. SMS-2000-X-142-A1
   Project: ROUTE 35 ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
   Applicant: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
   The Department of Public Works is proposing to improve 0.78 mile length of Route 35 (Tun Herman Pan) Road which includes hazard elimination such as inclusion of guardrails, traffic signs, drainage improvements, and pavement rehabilitation.
   a. Agencies' Discussion
   b. Agencies' Final Determination

   2) CRM Permit Application No. SMS-2021-015#
   Project: ROUTE 36 ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
   Applicant: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
   The Department of Public Works is proposing to construct road improvements along Route 36 Windward-Chalan Kalabera Road on the northeastern coast of Saipan. The proposed project will improve about 3.64 miles of the road as well as to replace two major drainage crossings, creating a continuous roadway connection with the Talofofo sector and the Marpi sector of Route 36.
   a. Agencies' Discussion
   b. Agencies' Final Determination

III. OTHER MATTERS

IV. ADJOURNMENT
   All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony regarding the above agenda items. (NOTE: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session).

/s/ JANICE E. CASTRO
Director, DCRM

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-21-020

Installation of Sludge Dewatering Equipment

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Installation of Sludge Dewatering Equipment in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The intent of the contract is for the Contractor to provide all labor, equipment, supplies and materials necessary to complete the scope of work which consists of; installation of sludge dewatering equipment including the screw press skid (OFCI) for full function. The work shall include; selective demolition of existing improvements, the installation of sludge dewatering units (OFCI), shaftless auger conveyor (OFCI), installation of pressure pumps, installation of water storage tanks, and rehabilitation and modification of existing improvements, along with other miscellaneous features, for one unit at Sadog Tasi Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) and one unit at Agingan WWTP. The work shall be completed with minimal disruption to the daily operation of the Sadog Tasi WWTP and Agingan WWTP. CUC requires the Project to be completed in 180 calendar days from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, oeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **$100.00** (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **March 9, 2021 at 10:00 AM** (ChST) at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-21-020, Installation of Sludge Dewatering Equipment" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on March 29, 2021, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the Unites States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A *Payment Bond* of one Hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on March 16, 2021 to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Westen Knudsen, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer via email address westen.knudsen@cucgov.org and to Marcela Tenorio, P&S, Senior Administrative Technician - marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

30TH ANNIVERSARY
Northern Marianas Humanities Council
Navigating the Human Experience

Board Vacancy Announcement

CNMI residents are invited to express their interest in serving as a Board member for the Northern Marianas Humanities Council (Council). The Council is a non-profit, private corporation affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities whose mission is to navigate and explore the human experiences of the indigenous and diverse peoples of the Commonwealth by enriching their lives through research, dialogue, programs, and publications.

The Council's Board is comprised of thirteen volunteer members who serve three-year terms. The Council strives to maintain a board that reflects a broad cross section of our CNMI community. The ideal candidate will have a strong desire to promote the Council's mission, programs, and activities and to actively participate in fundraising activities. Board responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Attending regular Council meetings four times annually;
- Raising funds for Council programs;
- Recruiting community partners;
- Promoting awareness about the Council's mission and its programs in the community;
- Attending Council programs and activities;
- Participating in working committee meetings;
- Evaluating Council programs and activities;
- Reviewing grant applications;
- Providing input about the humanities from various community members, and
- Attending conferences, workshops and other meetings on behalf of the Council.

Applicants are invited to submit their letters of interest and resumes to **Theresa Arriola, Chair**, Northern Marianas Humanities Council at Post Office Box 506437 Saipan, MP 96950, delivered to the Council's office located in the Springs Plaza Building in Gualo Rai, Saipan, or via email to: info@nmhcouncil.org. Complete submissions must be received by Council staff on or before 4:00 p.m. on Monday, March 22, 2021. For additional information, please contact the Council's Executive Director, Leo Pangelinan, at telephone 235-4785 or visit the Council's website at www.nmhcouncil.org.

Nation

7 picked, 7 to go for jury in ex-cop's trial in Floyd death

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)— Jury selection continues Monday for a former Minneapolis police officer charged in George Floyd's death, with the process halfway complete after the first week.

Seven people have been picked to hear evidence in the trial against Derek Chauvin, who is charged with murder and manslaughter. Attorneys will continue questioning jurors one by one until they get to a total of 14. Twelve will deliberate and two will be alternates.

Floyd, a Black man, was declared dead on May 25 after Chauvin, who is white, pressed his knee against his neck for about nine minutes. Floyd's death sparked sometimes violent protests in Minneapolis and beyond and led to a national reckoning on racial justice. Chauvin is charged with second-degree murder, third-degree murder and manslaughter and at least three weeks have been set aside for jury selection.

In the midst of jury selection, Minneapolis last week agreed to pay $27 million to settle a civil rights lawsuit from Floyd's family over his death. Floyd family attorney Ben Crump, called it the largest pretrial settlement ever for a civil rights claim. The settlement includes $500,000 for the south Minneapolis neighborhood that includes the 38th and Chicago intersection that has been blocked by barricades since Floyd's death, with a massive metal sculpture and murals in his honor. The city didn't immediately say how that money would be spent.

Legal experts said publicity about the settlement could be bad for the defense, leading some potential jurors to think guilt has been decided. But they doubted it would really affect the criminal trial. Judge Peter Cahill has told members of the jury pool to avoid all news coverage about the case.

The process of questioning jurors has been long and nuanced, with attorneys for both sides trying to ferret out potential jurors who may be biased. The defense is striking people who tell they court they already have strong feelings about Derek Chauvin's guilt. The prosecution, meanwhile, is blocking potential jurors who seem inclined to give police the benefit of the doubt.

Pelosi pledges swift work on major infrastructure package

WASHINGTON (AP)— House Speaker Nancy Pelosi on Sunday pledged swift work by Congress on a job and infrastructure package that will be "fiscally sound," but said she isn't sure whether the next major item on President Joe Biden's agenda will attract Republican backing.

Fresh off a major legislative victory on the $1.9 trillion virus relief package that passed on near-party lines, Democrats face long and tough battles ahead in winning GOP endorsement of the administration's plans.

Road- and bridge-building legislation has a long history of support from both parties as lawmakers aim to deliver on projects back home. But Republicans disagree with Biden's focus on the environment and the possibility of financing any program with debt after the government borrowed heavily to address the economic fallout from the coronavirus pandemic.

"Building roads and bridges and water supply systems and the rest has always been bipartisan, always been bipartisan, except when they oppose it with a Democratic president, as they did under President Obama, and we had to shrink the package," said Pelosi, D-Calif.

"But, nonetheless, hopefully, we will have bipartisanship," she said.

Pelosi has directed key Democratic lawmakers to begin working with Republicans on a "big, bold and transformational infrastructure package."

During the presidential campaign, Biden laid the groundwork by proposing $2 trillion in "accelerated" investments to shift to cleaner energy, build half a million charging stations for electric vehicles, support public transit and repair roads and bridges. The plan emphasizes the importance of creating unionized jobs and addressing climate change.

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Eli D. Cabrera, Administrator — Janice E. Castro, Director, DCRM

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

ROUTE 35 ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (CHALAN TUN HERMAN PAN-AIRPORT ROAD) COASTAL PERMIT NO. SMS-2000-X-142-A1

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the proposed road improvements of the Route 35 also known as the Chalan Tun Herman Pan Road.

The Department of Public Works is proposing to improve the Route 35 (Tun Herman Pan) Road which includes hazard elimination such as inclusion of guardrail, traffic signs and drainage improvements and pavement rehabilitation. Route 35 is a two-lane undivided roadway along the 0.78-mile length beginning from the Route 31 (Chalan Msgr. Guerrero) Road intersection and ending at the intersection of Route 304 (Flame Road).

The public hearing for this project is scheduled to take place on **Tuesday, April 6, 2021, at 5:00 PM at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center** in Susupe, Saipan. COVID-19 protocols will be implemented and all participants are required to wear a face mask at all times.

Written comments can be submitted by mail to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, P.O. Box 501304, sent by fax to 664-8315, or emailed to permitting@dcrm.gov.mp. The project files are open and can be reviewed by scheduling an appointment with DCRM. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed projects. Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Route 35 Road Improvement project.

/s/ JANICE E. CASTRO
Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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Eli D. Cabrera, Administrator — Janice E. Castro, Director, DCRM

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

ROUTE 36 ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (WINDWARD-CHALAN KALABERA) COASTAL PERMIT NO. SMS-2021-015

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the proposed road improvements of the Route 36 along the north-east coastline of Saipan.

The Department of Public Works, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration (FHA) is proposing to construct road improvements along Route 36 Windward-Chalan Kalabera Road on the northeastern coast of Saipan. The proposed project would widen, grade, and pave approximately 3.64 miles of existing road and to replace two drainage crossings at Unai Fanhang and Unai Nanasu by creating a continuous roadway connecting the Talofofo sector with the Marpi sector of Route 36.

The public hearing for this project is scheduled to take place on **Wednesday, April 7, 2021, at 5:00 PM, at the BECQ 2nd Floor Main Conference Room** on Middle Road in Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan. Due to the ongoing threat of COVID-19 and to ensure the health and safety of all, virtual public participation is highly encouraged via video conferencing through Google Meet (https://meet.google.com/gsm-zurs-kca) or join via telephone by calling the DCRM Office at (670) 664-8300 for connection assistance. Google Meet access code may change. Please call DCRM for an update.

Written comments can be submitted by mail to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, P.O. Box 501304, sent by fax to 664-8315, or emailed to permitting@dcrm.gov.mp. The project files are open and can be reviewed by scheduling an appointment with DCRM. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed projects. Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Route 36 Road Improvement project.

/s/ JANICE E. CASTRO
Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW21-ITB-023

SUBMISSION DATE: April 09, 2021 TIME: 10:00 A.M

"Ponding Basin Fencing, Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at DPW Technical Services Division required for each set

The project package will be available on or after **March 09, 2021** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **March 25, 2021**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **March 31, 2021** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR,
DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

INVITATION FOR BIDS [IFB]

(This ad is paid for NMHC with HUD funds)

NMHC IFB 2021-007

BID SUBMISSION DATE & TIME:
April 14, 2021, 10:00 a.m.

Purchase of Vehicle for the Tinian Field Office

The bid package will be available on March 15, 2021, at the NMHC website at www.nmhcgov.net by clicking on the "Procurement Tab".

The provisions of the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

For any inquiries regarding this bid shall be submitted to Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer via email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net or facsimile at (670)234-9021, on or before April 9th, 2021.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane
Chairwoman,
NMHC Board of Directors

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
Special Education Program

Special Education Program

Pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Public Participation Requirements, the Public School System Special Education Program is required to circulate for 60 days it's grant application for Special Education Funds and allows 30 days during that period for public comments from general public, including individuals with disabilities and parents of youth with disabilities. Hard copies of the Special Education Grant Applications are available from Monday to Friday, 8:00am – 4:00pm at the Office of Special Education Program, Capitol Hill, House Building 1224.

For Part B – Special Education Program
30 day Public Circulation Period: March 26, 2021 thru April 25, 2021
60 day Public Comment Period: March 15, 2021 thru May 14, 2021

You may also access the Grant Applications on the PSS Website:
Special Education Program:
https://www.cnmipss.org/special-education-program

Comments may be hand delivered to the Special Education Program office located in Capitol Hill, Building number 1224 or phone your comments in to:

Special Education Program: (670) 237-3029

For more information, please contact Ms. Donna M. Flores, Director, Special Education Program at (670) 237-3029.

Asia

AS DEATHS RISE

Martial law in Myanmar

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar's ruling junta has declared martial law in parts of the country's largest city as security forces killed more protesters in an increasingly lethal crackdown on resistance to last month's military coup.

At least 38 people were killed Sunday and dozens were injured in one of the deadliest days of the crackdown, according to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, an independent group tracking the toll of the violence.

Most of those killed—34—were in Yangon, where two townships, Hlaing Thar Yar and neighboring Shwepyitha were being placed under martial law.

Video from Hlaing Thar Yar township showed people running away after gunfire was heard. Those fleeing carried one injured person and tried to revive two others, one who seemed to be dead or dying, the footage from independent Democratic Voice of Burma showed.

Hlaing Thar Yar was the location of 22 civilian deaths Sunday, according to the aid group, which said more than a dozen civilians were wounded and described a large number of junta forces engaged in the township.

Since the takeover six weeks ago, Myanmar has been under a nationwide state of emergency, with its civilian leaders ousted and detained and military leaders in charge of all government. But the announcement on state broadcaster MRTV late Sunday appeared to be the first use of the term martial law since the coup and suggested more direct military control of security, instead of local police.

AP

Anti-coup protesters surround an injured man in Hlaing Thar Yar township in Yangon, Myanmar Sunday, March 14, 2021.

The announcement said the State Administrative Council acted to enhance security and restore law and order and said the Yangon regional commander has been entrusted with administrative, judicial and military powers in the area under his command.

Four other deaths were reported in Bago, Mandalay, and the northern city of Hpakant in Kachin state, according to the aid group and local media.

In Yangon, video posted on social media showed crowds of people, some wearing hard hats and gas masks, running down a street amid sounds of gunfire. The demonstrators quickly sprayed vapor from fire extinguishers as they retreated — a tactic widely used to smother tear gas and create a vapor screen that makes it harder for police to pursue or shoot demonstrators.

There were also reports of injuries from live rounds and rubber bullets in other parts of Yangon, including Insein district, where billows of black smoke could be seen after security forces reportedly set roadblocks on fire.

In a new tactic, anti-coup demonstrators used the cover of darkness to hold mass candlelight vigils Saturday and Sunday nights in a Yangon commercial area that was usually the scene of their daytime protests. After-dark rallies were also held in Mandalay and elsewhere.

China, North Korea loom as Blinken, Austin head to Asia

WASHINGTON (AP)—Threats from China and North Korea will loom large over the Biden administration's first Cabinet-level trip abroad, part of a larger effort to bolster U.S. influence and calm concerns about America's role in Asia.

A senior administration official said Saturday that U.S. officials have tried to reach out to North Korea through multiple channels since last month, but have yet to receive a response. That makes consultations with the reclusive country's neighbors, Japan, South Korea and China, all the more critical.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin are heading to Japan and South Korea for four days of talks starting Monday as the new administration tries to shore up partnerships with the two key regional allies. Blinken and Biden's national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, will meet with Chinese officials in Anchorage, Alaska, on Thursday.

The Cabinet members' Asia trip is intended to restore what Biden hopes will be a calming and even-keeled approach to ties with Tokyo and Seoul after four years of transactional and often temperamental relations under Donald Trump. He had upended diplomatic norms by meeting not once, but three times, with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

Blinken and Austin also plan virtual meetings with journalists, civil-society members and others. After reassuring their counterparts of U.S. commitments to Japanese and South Korean security, they plan to focus on an increasingly assertive China, the nuclear challenge from North Korea and the coronavirus pandemic.

In his first months in office, Biden has signaled his desire to return the Asia-Pacific to the top of the U.S. foreign policy agenda. In keeping with his broader "America is back" diplomatic theme, Biden has pledged to keep stability in the region at the core of his international initiatives.

On Friday, Biden participated in a virtual summit with the leaders of India, Japan and Australia. "A free and open Indo-Pacific is essential," Biden said. "The United States is committed to working with you, our partners and all of our allies in the region to achieve stability."

As part of that effort and "to reduce the risks of escalation," the senior official said efforts had been made to connect with the North Koreans since mid-February, including through what is known as the "New York channel." To date, the official said, "we have not received any response from Pyongyang." The official was not authorized to publicly discuss the diplomatic outreach and spoke on condition of anonymity.

World

Chile becomes Latin America's COVID vaccination champion

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP)—After being among the world's hardest-hit nations with COVID-19, Chile is now near the top among countries at vaccinating its population against the virus.

With more than 25% of its people having received at least one shot, the country of 19 million on South America's Pacific coast is the champion of Latin America, and globally it is just behind Israel, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom.

That's a far cry from the beginning of the pandemic, when Chile was criticized over its inability to trace and isolate infected people.

So what is the secret to its success?

Government officials and health experts say it was the country's early negotiations with vaccine producers, as well as its past experience with robust vaccination programs, a record praised by the World Health Organization.

During the first months of the pandemic, the headlines in Chile were bleak, with the country's intensive care units almost full and the government unable to control the virus's spread despite restrictions that included mandatory lockdowns.

But another story was developing in parallel that few people knew about, one that had begun months before and would later guarantee Chile fast access to vaccines.

Andrés Couve, Chile's minister of science, told The Associated Press that formal negotiations with vaccine-producing companies started last April, only a month after COVID-19 was declared a pandemic.

By May, Couve said, a team of experts and officials presented a plan to President Sebastián Piñera, including a road map about how to use the country's network of trade agreements and its previous contacts with pharmaceutical companies to get vaccines once they were developed. Recommendations included being part of clinical trials.

This effort was helped by contacts made months earlier in China. In October 2019, Chilean biochemist Dr. Alexis Kalergis had traveled to Beijing with two Chilean colleagues for an international congress on immunology. There Kalergis met experts from the Chinese pharmaceutical Sinovac Biotech Ltd.

Kalergis had already approached Sinovac about working on vaccine research. So when China announced in January 2020 that it had identified a new virus, and within weeks the world saw it spreading around the globe, Kalergis knew he needed to reach out to his colleagues at Sinovac.

"Taking advantage of our experience, the contacts and the interest that we expressed … we started conversations with Sinovac," said Kalergis, director of the Milenio Institute for Immunology and Immunotherapy at Chile's Catholic University.

He spoke to Sinovac colleagues in January and February 2020, then went to Catholic University Dean Ignacio Sánchez with the details, saying they needed to be passed on to the government.

Sánchez approached Chile's health minister and foreign secretary, urging early negotiations with Sinovac and other pharmaceuticals and for Chile to be part of their clinical trials. The ministers agreed, and the Chilean government began making diplomatic contacts.

By June, long before any other country in Latin America, Chile had secured a contract with Sinovac, which agreed to deliver an early batch once the vaccine was authorized, Kalergis said.

Rodrigo Yáñez, undersecretary for international economic relations and lead negotiator with companies to get the vaccines, said Chile understood from the beginning that it needed to work with different pharmaceutical companies at the same time.

"We looked at different alternatives and didn't put all the eggs in the same basket," he said.

Chile was part of a Sinovac clinical trial that started in December and involved 2,300 medical workers. The government has not published its results, saying only that they were good.

Ireland suspends AstraZeneca vaccine amid blood clot reports

LONDON (AP)—Irish health officials on Sunday recommended the temporary suspension of the AstraZeneca vaccine after reports of serious blood clotting after inoculations in Norway.

Dr. Ronan Glynn, Ireland's deputy chief medical officer, said the recommendation was made after Norway's medicines agency reported four cases of blood clotting in adults after receiving the AstraZeneca vaccine.

He said that while there was no conclusive link between the vaccine and the cases, Irish health officials are recommending the suspension of the vaccine's rollout as a precaution. Danish, Norwegian and Icelandic authorities have taken similar precautionary steps.

The Netherlands followed suit late Sunday, suspending vaccinations with the AstraZeneca shot as a precaution for two weeks. The health ministry said the move followed six new reports in Denmark and Norway of blood clotting and lowered levels of blood platelets in people aged under 50.

The Dutch medicines authority also stressed that no link has been proven between the cases and the vaccine.

The health ministry said that no cases had been reported in the Netherlands.

AstraZeneca said in a statement Sunday that it "would like to offer its reassurance on the safety of its COVID-19 vaccine based on clear scientific evidence."

"The safety of the public will always come first," the British-Swedish biopharmaceutical company said, adding that it's "keeping this issue under close review but available evidence does not confirm that the vaccine is the cause."

The company said that a review of safety data of more than 17 million people who have received the AstraZeneca vaccine in the European Union and the U.K. "has shown no evidence of an increased risk of pulmonary embolism, deep vein thrombosis (DVT) or thrombocytopenia, in any defined age group, gender, batch or in any particular country."

The World Health Organization and the European Union's medicines regulator have previously said that there was no link between the jab and an increased risk of developing a clot.

Overdrive

AUTO REVIEW: Forget luxury SUVs, get a Mazda CX-30 Turbo

By HENRY PAYNE
THE DETROIT NEWS

Auto consumers have been fixated on their transition to SUVs, but I encourage them to pay attention to a parallel trend: the democratization of the automobile. Thanks to the electronics revolution, the gap between luxury and mainstream autos has been shrinking rapidly.

With the 2021 Mazda CX-30 Turbo, the difference has been obliterated.

In design and performance, my mainstream CX-30 Turbo Premium Plus is the equal of compact luxury SUVs like the Audi Q3 and BMW X1/X2. Factor in the loaded, $35,225 CX-30's price tag versus the $42,000 Teutons and the sexy Mazda is the best buy in segment. Mainstream or luxury. Call it a milestone.

Sure, brand matters when you're a young professional about to drop $40,000 on your first car. But your college smarts are whispering that—with the $7,000 you save on sticker—you can buy a nice couch set, chairs, and 68-inch OLED TV for your new condo.

It's not like you're compromising looks, horsepower, or tech. I mean, just look at the Mazda.

It's gorgeous. Lean face accented by chrome cheeks under headlight peepers that sweep backward into athletic flanks. It's quite a sculpture, prettier than any luxe bod. Drawn with strong lines and a shallow greenhouse, the proportions are only interrupted by huge, black fender moldings.

Mazda designers say the black cladding was added—not to nip costs—but to instill a sense of off-roadiness in order to differentiate CX-30 from, say, its sister hot hatch, the Mazda 3 Turbo. My bet is Mazda will correct that design hiccup in a mid-cycle refresh, because few customers will take this little ute into the brush.

Heck, you're more likely to seek out a race track to test this nimble beast. The CX-30 is a joy to drive hard.

The standard 182-horse CX-30 was the only crossover in class that could hold a candle to the BMW X-1. Now add the 250-horse turbocharged 2.5 liter to the recipe. and the Mazda is every bit the 228-horsepower Bimmer's equal. Forget other mainstream brands like the Ford Ecosport or Hyundai Kona, this eager ute is a luxury performance SUV in, well, luxury performance clothing.

TNS

Always ready for the next journey, the 2021 CX-30 2.5 S is equipped with a four-cylinder Skyactiv-G 2.5-liter engine paired with a quick-shifting Skyactiv-Drive six-speed automatic transmission. This engine is rated to deliver 186 horsepower and 186 lb-ft of torque. While G-Vectoring Control Plus and front-wheel drive are standard, the CX-30 2.5 S is available with Mazdaâ™s predictive i-Activ all-wheel drive and off-road traction assist feature, which can help the driver when venturing on uneven terrain.

I've written before how the Mazda3 Turbo and VW Golf GTI are superior value plays to their Audi A3 and BMW 2-series peers. But absent a similar VW effort in the subcompact ute space, the CX-30 is really a class of one.

Not only does the turbo-4 deliver gobs of torque—it is delivered via a six-speed transmission that's as buttery smooth as Sade's voice. Dancing through the twisties of Oakland County lake country, I rotated the CX-30 through an apex with minimal body roll—then stomped the accelerator on exit without the familiar hiccup of rival boxes.

The feeling is similar to a Mazda3 Turbo—my runner-up for 2020 Detroit News Vehicle of the Year—because the CX-30 is essentially a 3 Turbo jacked up a few inches. Same drivetrain. Same chassis. Same baked-in goodness.

The CX-30 interior is as attractive as the exterior. The layout is typical Mazda with the screen set high on the dash so drivers can keep their eyes on the road while corner-carving. This means the infotainment controller is of the rotary variety — similar to Bimmers. It took me a while to learn some CX-30 functions since Mazda insists on burying features in menus. But once you've stored your favorite radio stations, you'll want to use the Apple CarPlay or Android Auto app for your navigation, phone and text needs.

Phone apps are a big player in the democratization of autos. I use Android Auto and it's as good in the car as it is in your hand — meaning you won't miss those high-priced, luxury SUV nav systems. Android Auto voice navigation beats them all.

Phone apps are just the tip of the iceberg. Starting at $31,000, the CX-30 is loaded with standard features that luxe brands dole out to you for thousands more: Adaptive Cruise Control, blind-spot assist, auto emergency braking, rear traffic alert, phone apps, push-button start, dual-zone front passenger climate control and a jacuzzi (kidding about that last one).

The ACC system is particularly worthy of note given its similarities to Tesla—yes, another point of electronically induced democratization. Though Mazda has no Autopilot-like self-driving ambitions (unlike Subaru, which self-drives quite competently under 40 mph), its graphics are very similar to a Model 3 when adaptive cruise is engaged. An avatar of the Mazda hovers on the instrument display while sensors indicate where cars are in your blind spots.

This feature is indispensable on the Mazda3 Turbo given blind spots the size of New Hampshire. The CX-30, too, makes a design statement with its narrow greenhouse — but its more conventional C-pillar means you can better eyeball your surroundings.

I recommend the Premium Plus trim's luxe fixins': head-up display, 18-inch black wheels, blacked-capped mirrors. Just like the Audi and Bimmer.

CX-30's dashboard is simple, uncluttered. As is the center console—a relief compared to the over-engineered Audi.

Remarkably, the CX-30 Turbo's sticker price is little different than its Mazda3 stablemate. Another value play in this SUV-made market for customers who normally must pay a $2,500 premium for anything ute (SUVs generally require more sheet metal and chassis rigidity).

I'm a hot hatch fanatic, but for those who want a higher-riding ute, the CX-30 offers better interior headroom and rear legroom than the lower-riding 3 Turbo. Engineers were especially clever in scalloping out the back of the front seats for added rear legroom. Your giraffe-legged 6'5" reviewer could sit behind himself thanks to the seat design.

My apex-carving was rudely interrupted by Michigan winter. But the CX-30 Turbo shrugs off the white stuff. More than off-roading, this is where the AWD system really shows its stuff.

I dialed the Mazda drive modes back to Eco from Sport in order to reduce engine torque and corresponding wheel spin. The Mazda grunted easily through the powder, its 3,500-pound weight manageable under slippery conditions.

Once upon a time, luxury brands separated themselves with style, tech, power. No more, at least when compared to Mazda.

The CX-30 does come with one rich taste, though. To get that 250 horses, you'll need to fill the tank with premium, 93-octane fuel. Otherwise, cheaper regular fuel will get you 227 horses—equal to the X-1's 227.

More savings you can put into furniture for your condo.

NUTS & BOLTS

2021 Mazda CX-30 Turbo

- Vehicle type: Front engine, all-wheel-drive, 5-passenger subcompact SUV
- Price: $31,225 including $1,175 destination charge ($35,995 AWD Premium Plus as tested)
- Powerplant: 2.5-liter turbocharged, inline 4-cylinder
- Power: 250 horsepower (on premium, 93 octane fuel), 310 pound-feet torque
- Transmission: 6-speed automatic
- Performance: 0-60 mph, 5.9 seconds (Car and Driver est.); top speed, 125 mph
- Weight: 3,505 pounds (as tested)
- Fuel economy: EPA 22 city/30 highway/25 combined

Report card

- Highs: Premium looks; smooth, powerful drivetrain
- Lows: infotainment features take a while to learn; oh, that black fender cladding
- Overall: 4 stars

Motormouth: Easy fixes for frozen fuel door

By BOB WEBER
Chicago Tribune

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber's work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. *Send questions along with name and town to Motormouth, Rides, Chicago Tribune, 160 N. Stetson Ave., Fourth Floor, Chicago, IL 60601 or motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.*

Q: You may be getting a lot of responses on this one. Subaru Legacys and Outbacks are prone to water freezing on the inside edge of the fuel fill door. It is more common on the Legacy. The solution is to insert a credit card in the space around the door and work it around the opening. Once free, the door opens normally.

—T.B., Chicago

Q: I once had the same stuck fuel door problem. What I do now is wax the inside of the fuel door, especially the latch. Have not had a problem since.

—R.W., Chicago.

Q: I have a 2013 Legacy and had a similar situation where the gas door didn't open. Subaru said I was required to change the whole gas cover door assembly for a couple hundred dollars. I looked at the door and found it was only a missing rubber bumper that pushed the door out. I found one at Ace that cost about 79 cents. I bought a couple and keep them in the glove box. I think they get pulled out when the gas hose hits them. I keep finding them now when filling with gas and looking at the ground.

—J.G., Chicago

A: It looks like we opened a can of worms. I am now closing the door on this subject I am happy to share your tips. Thanks.

Q: A friend carries a battery device in the trunk of his car. It can be used to jump start a car in the event of battery failure. Your opinion on these devices? Any brand that you would recommend?

—T.C., Park Ridge, Ill.

A: They do work well enough, but are mostly limited to smaller, four-cylinder engines. They don't pack enough oomph to start anything larger. Some double as a battery bank for smart phones and other electronics. There are many similar compact lithium-ion battery packs out there and I can't suggest a brand.

Q: Recently I filled a container with about two gallons of gasoline for my snowblower. I wondered how much premium, 93 octane gas, I was getting if the person who previously used the pump bought 87 octane. Those gas pump hoses are quite long, and it seems they could hold at least a gallon of gasoline, but maybe they have a system in place to purge them between uses. Did I get a mixture of octanes, or did I get what I paid for?

—B.T., Wheaton, Ill.

A: The amount of fuel lurking in the dispenser can vary, but I use one quart as a rule of thumb. That's why I wait until my motorcycle is nearly empty before filling it with the required premium gas. The system for purging is the next customer bellies up to the bar.

Q: I have a 2017 Honda CRV, which I like except for the entertainment system. It won't accept and play CDs. I have many, mostly educational. Do you know of any new similar vehicles of other makes that still accept CDs? I am starting to look for a new one.

—J.S., Chicago

A: You will have a hard time finding many 2021 cars with CD players. Even many laptop computers no longer come with an optical drive. The last holdouts were Lexus and some GM trucks and SUVs. But don't take it as gospel. Call around to dealers. Your best bet is to copy the CDs to your smart phone or flash drive or have a service copy them for you.

Life & Style

Who run the Grammys? Beyoncé, Taylor Swift make history

NEW YORK (AP)—The Grammys are drunk in love with Beyoncé and Taylor Swift: the singers both made history at the 2021 show.

Swift, 31, became first woman to win album of the year three times.

"We just want to thank the fans," said Swift, who won the top prize with "folklore."

Swift previously won album of the year with her albums "Fearless" and "1989."

Beyoncé made history by surpassing Alison Krauss to become the most decorated female act in Grammy history.

Beyoncé earned her 28th Grammy on Sunday, picking up honors like best R&B performance for "Black Parade," best music video for "Brown Skin Girl" as well as best rap performance and best rap song for "Savage," with Megan Thee Stallion.

"As an artist I believe it's my job, and all of our jobs, to reflect time and it's been such a difficult time," Beyoncé said onstage as she won best R&B performance for "Black Parade," which was released on Juneteenth.

She went on to say she created the song to honor the "beautiful Black kings and queens" in the world.

She added: "I have been working my whole life ... This is such a magical night."

Beyoncé is now tied with producer and multi-instrumentalist Quincy Jones for the second most Grammy wins. The late conductor Georg Solti is the most decorated Grammy winner with 31 wins.

The royal family of music all won honors Sunday: Jay-Z shared the best rap song win since he co-wrote "Savage" and nine-year-old Blue Ivy Carter—who won best music video alongside her mother—became the second youngest act to win a Grammy in show's 63-year history. Leah Peasall was 8 when The Peasall Sisters won album of the year at the 2002 show for their appearance on the T Bone Burnett-produced "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" soundtrack.

Taylor Swift appears at the American Music Awards in Los Angeles on Nov. 24, 2019, left, and Beyonce appears at the world premiere of "The Lion King" in Los Angeles on July 9, 2019. AP

Megan Thee Stallion, who won three honors, also made history and became the first female rapper to best rap song. She's also the fifth rap-based act to win best new artist.

Beyoncé was the night's top contender with nine nominations, and she's still up for record of the year, where she's a double nominee thanks to "Black Parade" and "Savage."

Beyoncé didn't perform but Swift did.

She sang "cardigan" and "august" from "folklore," as well as "willow" from "evermore," and was joined by the collaborators who helped her make the albums, Jack Antonoff and Aaron Dessner, who both won album of the year with Swift.

Silk Sonic, aka Bruno Mars and Anderson Paak, also performed, bringing a throwback R&B vibe to the show with their smooth new single, "Leave the Door Open." Dua Lipa, who won best pop vocal album, proved her pop star status with a performance of her hits "Don't Start Now" and "Levitating," where she was joined by the DaBaby, who was an all-star during his own performance of his guitar-tinged rap hit "Rockstar," flipping the song for an exceptional live rendition featuring R&B singer Anthony Hamilton, a skilled violinist and background singers. And country singer Mickey Guyton—the first Black female nominated for best country solo performance—gave an impressive performance of her song "Black Like Me."

Other performers included Billie Eilish, Cardi B, Bad Bunny, Miranda Lambert, Maren Morris and Harry Styles, who won best pop solo performance for the hit "Watermelon Sugar."

"To everyone who made this record with me, thank you so much," said Styles, the first member of One Direction to win a Grammy.

Host Trevor Noah kicked off the show telling jokes about the coronavirus pandemic and the year that was 2020. He was live from downtown Los Angeles, with attendees wearing masks and sitting, socially distanced, at small round tables.

R&B singer H.E.R. won two honors, including song of the year for her protest anthem "I Can't Breathe," becoming one of the rare R&B songs to win the top prize. Another track about the Black experience – Anderson Paak's "Lockdown," released on Juneteenth – also won a Grammy, picking up best melodic rap performance.

PARTIAL LIST OF WINNERS

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A partial list of winners in the top categories at the 63rd annual Grammy Awards, presented Sunday in Los Angeles.

Album of the year: "folklore," Taylor Swift

Best R&B performance: "Black Parade," Beyoncé

Best pop vocal album: "Future Nostalgia," Dua Lipa

Best rap song: "Savage," Megan Thee Stallion, featuring Beyoncé

Song of the year (songwriter's award): "I Can't Breathe," H.E.R., Dernst Emile II and Tiara Thomas

Best pop solo performance: "Watermelon Sugar," Harry Styles

Best country album: "Wildcard," Miranda Lambert

Best new artist: Megan Thee Stallion

Best traditional pop vocal album: "American Standard," James Taylor

Best dance/electronic album: "Bubba," Kaytranada

Best rock album: "The New Abnormal," the Strokes.

Best alternative music album: "Fetch the Bolt Cutters," Fiona Apple

Best progressive R&B album: "It Is What It Is," Thundercat.

Best R&B album: "Bigger Love," John Legend

Best rap album: "King's Disease," Nas

Best jazz vocal album: "Secrets Are the Best Stories," Kurt Elling featuring Danilo Pérez

Best jazz instrumental album: "Trilogy 2," Chick Corea, Christian McBride and Brian Blade

Best gospel album: "Gospel According to PJ," PJ Morton

Best contemporary Christian music album: "Jesus Is King," Kanye West.

Best Latin rock or alternative album: "La Conquista del Espacio," Fito Páez

Best reggae album: "Got to Be Tough," Toots and the Maytals

Best spoken word album: "Blowout: Corrupted Democracy, Rogue State Russia, and the Richest, Most Destructive Industry on Earth," Rachel Maddow

Best comedy album: "Black Mitzvah," Tiffany Haddish

Best compilation soundtrack for visual media: "Jojo Rabbit."

Best score soundtrack for visual media: "Joker"

Producer of the year, non-classical: Andrew Watt.

Best music video: "Brown Skin Girl," Beyoncé with Blue Ivy

Best music film: "Linda Ronstadt: The Sound of My Voice," Linda Ronstadt

Boyfriend takes charge after couple moves into his house

DEAR ABBY: I have been with the same man for almost 30 years. We are not married and have no children together. He is 15 years older than I am.

We have been living in his house for the past seven years. I feel more like a renter than a partner in this relationship. I give him money every month, and we sleep in separate rooms. He wants to control everything in his house, including how to clean, cook or what we eat. I bite my lip to avoid starting a confrontation.

He is a lifelong bachelor, while I have two adult children and a couple of grandkids. I'm not sure how much more of this I can take. I work all day; he doesn't. I want to leave, but at the same time, I care and worry about him. What should I do?

DISILLUSIONED IN ILLINOIS

DEAR DISILLUSIONED: Quit biting your lip. Gather your courage and start an honest conversation with your housemate in which you tell him you have been unhappy with the status quo for a long time. Then outline the changes that would make you happy. If he isn't willing to compromise, then pack your bags and leave because you will know the feelings you have for him are not mutual.

DEAR ABBY: I've been "friends" with a woman for 25 years. For a time, we were best friends and did everything together, but we couldn't be more different. It caused many fights and disagreements over the years. She has deeply hurt and embarrassed me countless times. She ruined birthdays, damaged other relationships—even ruined my bachelorette party. I don't know why I still bother with her. I think because of our deep roots, it's hard to let go.

At the moment, we haven't spoken in more than two months, and I know she's upset with me yet again. Should I reach out and mend the bond? Do I use this as a stepping stone to start moving on? I love her, but I know it really is a toxic relationship.

OFF AGAIN IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR OFF AGAIN: Please reread the last sentence of your letter. Do not bother reaching out and trying to mend the breach in your relationship. You cannot fix what's wrong with this old friend, but you can move on. Her silence is giving you the opportunity. Take it!

DEAR ABBY: My son is getting married in a couple of weeks. Due to COVID-19, he and his fiancee are having to downsize the list of invitees. This includes asking those who have already RSVP'd "yes" and/or have already given them a wedding gift not to attend. Should they return the wedding gifts to those they are disinviting to the wedding?

WONDERING IN THE SOUTH

DEAR WONDERING: Your son and his fiancee should at least OFFER to return the gifts. Considering the reason for the downsizing, some of the no-longer-invited guests may tell them to keep them along with their good wishes, while others will not.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

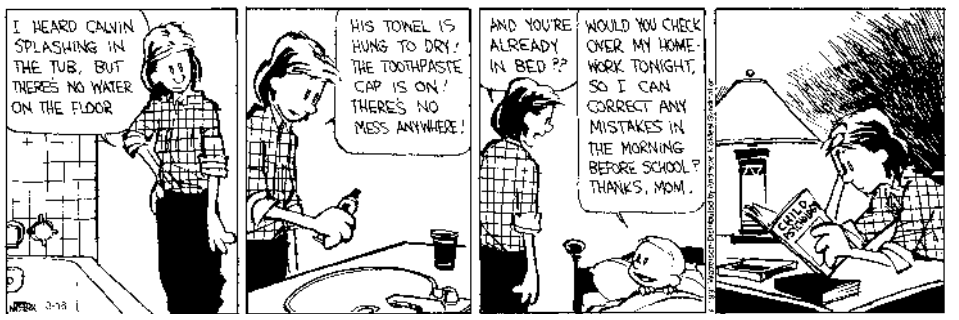
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I HEARD CALVIN SPLASHING IN THE TUB, BUT THERE'S NO WATER ON THE FLOOR
HIS TOWEL IS HUNG TO DRY! THE TOOTHPASTE CAP IS ON! THERE'S NO MESS ANYWHERE!
AND YOU'RE ALREADY IN BED??
WOULD YOU CHECK OVER MY HOMEWORK TONIGHT, SO I CAN CORRECT ANY MISTAKES IN THE MORNING BEFORE SCHOOL? THANKS, MOM.
CHILD PSYCHOLOGY

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

YOU WANT A GAME CALLED "HYPEREXTENDED KNEE" FOR YOUR VIRTUAL REALITY SYSTEM?
YEAH.
DON'T BE THROWN BY THE NAME. YOU DON'T ACTUALLY EXPERIENCE A KNEE INJURY.
I MEAN, I DON'T THINK SO.
WELL, IT SOUNDS WONDERFUL.
3-16

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

HI, Millie - HOW ARE YOU FEELING?
OH, GOOD. I WAS THINKING THAT SINCE YOU'RE OVER THE VIRUS, WE COULD GO OUT THIS WEEKEND.
SHE'S GOING OUTSIDE TO LOOK FOR A BAT TO KISS.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Pike or perch
5 Chum
8 Scribbles
12 Diamond heads?
13 Lanka lead-in
14 "Yeah, right"
15 Legendary folk singer
17 "Encore!"
18 Hostel
19 "Kid-napped" monogram
20 Drivers with handles
21 Bread spread
22 Scary cry
23 Spanish snacks
26 Areas outside of cities
30 Actor Baldwin
31 Coquettish
32 Santa's sackful
33 Green Bay footballers
35 Ice cream holders
36 Lad
37 Bit of wit
38 Beach buckets
41 Army address
42 Italian article
45 "Casa-blanca" role
46 46th U.S. President
48 Body powder
49 Leb. neighbor
50 Source
51 Arduous journey
52 Tank filler
53 Curry and Landers

DOWN

1 Japanese volcano
2 "— a roll!"
3 Bridge
4 QVC alternative
5 Sacred song
6 War god
7 Designer Claiborne
8 Author of "Ball Four"
9 Slender woodwind
10 Region (Abbr.)
11 Fr. holy women
16 Bikini parts
20 Corn throw-away
21 "The Holiday" actor
22 Purchase
23 Spigot
24 — carte
25 Chest muscle
26 "Mayday!"
27 Director Howard
28 "Adios!"
29 Snake's sound
31 Weep
34 Dawn goddess
35 Street edge
37 Berth places
38 "Troy" actor Brad
39 Winged
40 Capri, e.g.
41 Slugger Sammy
42 Japanese noodle
43 Inert gas
44 Picnic invaders
46 Springy dance
47 Playwright Levin

Solution time: 22 mins.

F	A	B			B	A	R		S	A	L	T
A	L	U	M		I	H	E		I	A	O	S
H	I	C	A		I	E	A		H	A	G	A
M	A	S	K	S		A	C	A	I			
			E	A	I		I	S	K	I	S	K
T	I	T	A	N	I	C		P	E	A	C	E
A	S		F		L	O	B		I	P	A	D
M	E	L	O	N		L	E	T	T	E	R	S
P	E	T	R	O	L		T	A	R			
			T	R	A	P		B	I	S	O	N
H	U	L	U		B	U	Y		C	H	A	I
A	M		N		O	R	E		H	E	R	B
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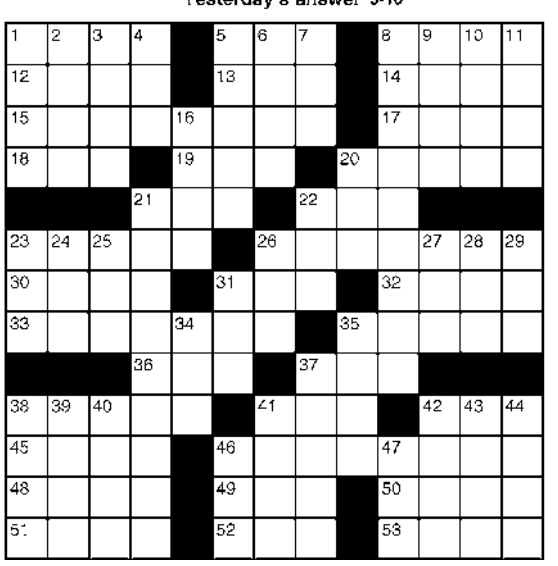
Yesterday's answer 3-16



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Joel Embiid, 27; Judah Friedlander, 52; Lauren Graham, 54; Victor Garber, 72.

Happy Birthday: Share your thoughts and feelings with someone you trust, and you'll find it easier to shape your plans to fit the lifestyle you want. A positive approach to life and happiness will encourage others to pitch in and help you reach your goals. Mark each milestone with a reward, and it will give you the incentive to surpass your expectations. Your numbers are 4, 10, 23, 28, 36, 41, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Keep marching forward, and don't stop until you reach your destination. Progress takes discipline, fortitude and courage, but the result will be worth the blood, sweat and tears it takes to make your dreams come true. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Emotions will confuse you if you let them take over. Be realistic, and you'll avoid getting caught in a no-win situation. Be willing to compromise, and you will simplify your life and find the happiness and satisfaction you desire. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Sort through information, go over details carefully, look for discrepancies and make adjustments. Keep your guard up when dealing with people who talk big, expect a lot and offer little. Work alone whenever possible, and you'll avoid interference. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Pay attention to detail, but don't lose sight of your deadline. Working quickly and finishing on time is as important as the effort you put into anything you pursue. Leave time for personal pleasures, and it will make what you accomplish sweeter. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* The changes taking place will strike an emotional chord. Learn from the experience, and you will find new opportunities to fill any void you are feeling. Put your energy into self-improvement and a realistic plan, not revenge or indulgent behavior. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* It's up to you to bring about change. Don't wait for someone to push you in a direction that benefits them more than you. Take control and embrace what you feel passionate about, and you will meet people who share your concerns. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Research, educate and delve into something that makes you feel passionate. Emotional spending and joint ventures will not turn out as planned. You'll be misled by someone who lacks integrity and wants to take advantage of you emotionally or financially. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Don't fold under pressure. When in doubt, take a pass. Gravitate toward the things you know are possible, what you enjoy doing and the people who share your interests and have something to contribute to your long-term plans. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Listen, but don't participate in something you don't want to pursue. Problems at home will surface if tempers take over and distance you from someone you love. Keep the peace, do something you'll regret. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Someone who opposes the changes you are initiating will question you. Don't get into an argument over something that isn't going to matter as you move forward. Follow your heart, and be responsible for your future and happiness. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Let your intuition lead the way, and you'll find a way to use your skills and knowledge to your advantage. Reinventing the way you market yourself will make a difference when you are job hunting or looking to make new connections. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Incorporate something you enjoy doing into your daily routine. Educational pursuits that help you head in the direction that offers higher income potential are favored. Refuse to let a setback or what someone does consume you. Choose productivity over emotional anger. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are caring, intense and emotional. You are impatient and trendy.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

1				4				9
			9		2			
		3			7		6	
		5		3		7		4
7		9		1		8		3
		8		5		6		2
		2		6			1	
				1		3		
3				2				7

Difficulty Level ★★ 3/16

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

7	3	5	9	1	8	4	2	6
9	6	4	5	3	2	1	7	8
2	1	8	6	4	7	3	5	9
5	7	9	4	2	1	8	6	3
6	2	3	7	8	9	5	1	4
8	4	1	3	5	6	2	9	7
3	9	2	8	7	5	6	4	1
1	8	7	2	6	4	9	3	5
4	5	6	1	9	3	7	8	2

Difficulty Level ★

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

GREEK RESTAURANT ITEMS — Solution: 8 letters

T	B	K	R	O	P	D	O	O	F	A	E	S	A	B
Z	A	O	S	R	S	I	O	A	O	I	L	S	L	S
A	K	R	U	Y	E	P	T	T	(F)	H	O	U	S	E
T	L	S	A	G	P	S	A	S	R	(E)	N	N	I	D
Z	A	E	R	M	A	T	E	G	E	C	(T)	B	R	E
I	V	I	I	P	O	T	I	E	H	I	U	(A)	L	Z
K	A	R	C	P	S	S	S	R	H	E	P	R	O	E
I	H	F	E	R	V	U	A	A	O	C	T	C	I	M
S	D	A	E	R	B	M	A	L	L	P	L	T	N	E
R	C	V	E	U	I	M	F	P	A	A	I	A	I	E
O	I	K	N	N	L	U	E	E	H	T	D	T	M	F
L	L	S	I	L	T	H	O	N	E	Y	A	I	A	F
L	R	H	I	P	U	R	E	E	U	B	L	V	I	O
S	A	R	O	L	I	V	E	S	L	S	A	L	N	C
T	G	S	E	D	E	T	F	E	K	O	N	I	O	N

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Baklava, Base, Beef, Bougatsa, Bread, Buns, Cheese, Coffee, Crab, Dinners, Dips, Entrée, Fava, Feta, Fries, Garlic, Grill, Gyro, Honey, House, Hummus, Keftedes, Lamb, Livers, Lunch, Main, Menus, Mezedes, Oils, Olives, Onion, Pasta, Phyllo, Pies, Pork, Potato, Puree, Rice, Rolls, Salad, Seafood, Shrimp, Sirloin, Spaghetti, Table, Tahini, Taramosalata, Tiropita, Tzatziki

Yesterday's Answer: Mirage

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 45 through 62 order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Green has triple-double, Warriors beat NBA-leading Jazz

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Draymond Green had his 26th career triple-double with 11 points, 12 rebounds and 12 assists and the Golden State Warriors held off the NBA-leading Utah Jazz 131-119 on Sunday to end a season-worst four-game losing streak.

Green also had four steals in his second triple-double of the season. Stephen Curry had 32 points with six 3-pointers to go with nine assists.

Andrew Wiggins added 28 points as Golden State returned home for a rare Sunday matinee at Chase Center, where the Warriors had played just one time over the previous 24 days.

Rudy Gobert had 24 points and a career-high 28 rebounds for Utah (28-10), which became the league's last team to reach double-digit losses. Donovan Mitchell added 24, Mike Conley 23 and Jordan Clarkson 21.

Utah had won the last five against Golden State and two in a row on the Warriors' home floor.

AP

Utah Jazz center Rudy Gobert, left, is fouled by Golden State Warriors forward Draymond Green, right, during the second half of an NBA basketball game in San Francisco, Sunday, March 14, 2021.

76ers 134, Spurs 99

In Philadelphia, Tobias Harris scored 23 points and Philadelphia won it first game since Joel Embiid was lost to a knee injury, beating San Antonio.

The Sixers' hold on the top spot in the Eastern Conference appears tenuous with Embiid out for at least two weeks with a bone bruise on his left knee. Embiid was injured Friday night in a victory at Washington.

Seth Curry added 21 points for the 76ers.

Derrick White and Drew Eubanks led the Spurs with 17 points.

Pelicans 135, Clippers 115

In New Orleans, Zion Williamson scored 27 points, Brandon Ingram added 23 and New Orleans beat Los Angeles for its second straight blowout.

Lonzo Ball hit five 3s and finished with 20 points for New Orleans, which shot an NBA season-high 65.4% (53 for 81). Jaxson Hayes highlighted his season-high 17 points with a tomahawk dunk in which he jumped over Clippers guard Reggie Jackson before slamming the ball down through the hoop and off Jackson's head. Hayes got a technical foul for tapping his own head mockingly as he stood over Jackson after the play.

Kawhi Leonard scored 23 points for the Clippers.

Heat 102, Magic 97

In Orlando, Fla., Jimmy Butler scored 29 points, Tyler Herro added 22 and Miami rallied in the fourth quarter to beat Orlando.

The Heat have won four straight and 10 of 11.

Butler finished with nine assists, seven rebounds and five steals in 36 minutes. He sealed it, stealing Michael Carter-Williams' pass to set up his layup.

Magic guard Terrence Ross scored 20 of his 31 points in the second half.

Hawks 100, Cavaliers 82

In Atlanta, John Collins scored 22 points, Danilo Gallinari had 20 and Atlanta beat Cleveland for its fifth consecutive victory under interim coach Nate McMillan.

Collins set a season high with 13 rebounds. Trae Young scored 14 points.

Collin Sexton had 15 points for the Cavaliers. They have lost three in a row.

Celtics 134, Rockets 107

In Houston, Jaylen Brown scored 24 points, Jayson Tatum added 23 and Boston handed Houston its 16th straight loss—one short of the franchise record.

Boston won for the fifth time in six games.

Victor Oladipo led Houston with 26 points.

Timberwolves 114, Trail Blazers 1112

In Minneapolis, Anthony Edwards scored a career-high 34 points and short-handed Minnesota held off Portland.

Ricky Rubio added 15 points, including eight free throws in the final seconds. Karl-Anthony Towns had 13 points as Minnesota started with just 10 players after rookie Jaden McDaniels was added to the health and safety protocols before the game.

The Timberwolves have won two of their past three games and are 2-6 under new coach Chris Finch.

Damian Lillard scored 38 points for Portland. The Trail Blazers had won four of five and beat Minnesota 125-121 on Saturday.

Bulls 118, Raptors

In Chicago, rookie Patrick Williams had a career-best 23 points to lead Chicago past Toronto.

Zach LaVine added 15 points to help the Bulls end a two-game slide.

Norman Powell scored 32 points for Toronto, and Kyle Lowry had 20 points and eight assists before being ejected in the final minutes after picking up his second technical foul for arguing with officials. The depleted Raptors lost their fifth straight.

Thunder 128, Grizzlies 122

In Oklahoma City, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 30 points and Aleksej Pokusevski had a career-high 23, helping Oklahoma City beat Memphis.

Kenrich Williams added 17 points on 7-for-8 shooting.

Ja Morant had 22 points and seven assists for Memphis.

68 teams punch their ticket. Now comes the hard part

By EDDIE PELLS
AP NATIONAL WRITER

The 68 teams whose names popped up in the March Madness bracket only thought it was time to celebrate: The next four or five days figure to be the most nerve-wracking part of their seasons.

Welcome to Bubble Ball — the NCAA Tournament is being played in a pandemic, where no player can show up for the games in Indianapolis without seven negative COVID tests, and no team is really "in" the tournament until the ball is tipped off.

"Which potential season-ending test was more stressful than the other?" Drexel coach Zach Spiker said, meaning the challenges that still await. "Testing, practice, getting on the bus in Philadelphia, waiting for that reply, that response time to say, 'We're all negative here. OK, let's get out of here. Let's get to Indianapolis.'"

Because of COVID-19 issues, Drexel played a grand total of 19 games — about 11 fewer than usual — en route to the Colonial Athletic Conference title. That earned the Dragons an automatic bid into the tournament. The reward? in addition to a battery of nasal swabs, they get a No. 16 seed and an opening-round meeting with top-seeded Illinois.

The other top seeds were Michigan, Baylor and Gonzaga, which is the overall No. 1, and a 2-1 favorite to win it all and complete the first undefeated season since the 1976 Indiana Hoosiers.

In the biggest adjustment to a normal March Madness, all the games will be played in and around Indianapolis over 19 days. No more worrying about who got shipped to Spokane or mired in Memphis. The NCAA did, however, keep the region names — West, East, South and Midwest — to at least make the bracket look normal.

More about that bracket: A few bubble teams are coming from unexpected places, namely UCLA and Michigan State. Both were widely projected to make the field with ease, but they ended up as 11 seeds, paired in a First Four matchup on Thursday. The other 11-11 game pits Wichita State against Drake.

Teams like Louisville, Saint Louis, Colorado State and Mississippi would gladly trade places with them. And still might. In one of many first-of-its-kind moves made to accommodate a one-of-a-kind tournament, the NCAA put team Nos. 69-72 on standby in case a program in the 68-team draw has to withdraw because of a COVID-19 outbreak.

They have until Tuesday night to notify the NCAA they can't make it. After that, a team that withdraws will simply go home, and its opponent will get a walkover into the next round.

"If the teams continue to do the great work that they've done just to get to the tournament, we will have a very safe, very healthy 67-game tournament and we'll crown a champion," selection committee chairman Mitch Barnhart said.

But to underscore what a different, and difficult, season this has been, the committee spent a lot of time stressing over two shoo-ins, Kansas and Virginia, each of which pulled out of their conference tournaments last week because of outbreaks.

Barnhart said both are following proper protocols to make it to Indianapolis for their games on Saturday. Kansas is the No. 3 seed in the West and Virginia, the defending champion (from 2019), is the fourth seed in the same region.

"The one thing I've found out through this, probably as much as anybody, is expect the unexpected," Kansas coach Bill Self said.

That is, after all, what March Madness is about — three weeks filled with busted brackets, out-of-nowhere surprises, teams that take care of unfinished business and an occasional visit from an old friend.

Remember Sister Jean? She's 101 now, and her team, Loyola Chicago, is back in the dance, hoping for a reboot of the, shall we say, "miracle" run to the Final Four in 2018.

Remember Patrick Ewing? He lifted Georgetown to national prominence back in the 1980s, and now he's back as the coach, guiding the underdog—yes, underdog—Hoyas to a Big East Tournament title and a surprise trip to the tourney.

And Rick Pitino? His career was left for dead after his ouster from Louisville following that school's unseemly recruiting scandal a few years back. He's back, too, as coach of Iona, which played only 13 regular-season games, but won its conference tourney and made it to Indy. The Gaels are a 15th seed — not what Pitino is used to this time of year.

"A little role reversal," he said, "but still you have to play the game."

And play they will. From the First Four on Thursday through the Final Four, which ends with nets the coming down on April 5.

So much could go wrong between now and then. So much has to go right.

But a year after the tournament was scrubbed in the early days of the pandemic, it feels good to have a bracket to fill out.

Even if it feels a little different.

Record-setting Saints' Brees announces retirement at 42

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The Drew Brees era with the New Orleans Saints —marked by a Super Bowl celebration, raucous record-setting nights in the rebuilt Superdome and the undersized quarterback's outsized role in a historic city's rebirth —has ended.

Brees, the NFL's leader in career completions and yards passing, has decided to retire after 20 NFL seasons, including his last 15 with New Orleans.

"Til the very end I exhausted myself to give everything to the Saints organization, my team and the great city of New Orleans," Brees said in social media post on Sunday, 15 years to the day after he signed with the Saints.

"We shared some amazing moments together, many of which are emblazoned in our hearts and minds and will forever be a part of us," Brees continued. "I am only retiring from football. I am not retiring from New Orleans. This is not goodbye."

The post also included a short video in which his four young children — the three boys wearing No. 9 Saints jerseys — exclaimed, "Our dad is finally going to retire so he can spend more time with us!"

The decision comes after the 42-year-old quarterback won nine of 12 regular-season starts while completing 70.5% of his passes in 2020, and then won a wild-card round playoff game before New Orleans' season ended with a divisional-round loss to eventual Super Bowl champion Tampa Bay.

Brees missed four games this season with multiple fractured ribs and a collapsed lung. It marked the second straight season Brees had to miss part of a season with an injury after missing just one game because of injury in the previous 13. In 2019, Brees missed five games because of a thumb injury on his throwing hand that required surgery.

AP

This Feb. 7, 2010, file photo shows New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees (9) celebrating with the Vince Lombardi Trophy after the NFL Super Bowl XLIV football game against the Indianapolis Colts in Miami.

Saints coach Sean Payton said Brees had plenty of other injuries or ailments during his Saints tenure, but willed himself to play through them whenever possible.

"Over the years his durability and availability is quite amazing. I can recall so many of these different injuries," Payton said. "He's as courageous and as tough a player as I've ever been around."

Brees is the NFL's all-time leader in yards passing with 80,358, although that mark will be under threat next season by 44-year-old Tom Brady, who has 79,204 career yards passing. Brees' 571 career touchdown passes rank second behind Brady's 581.

Brees had dropped hints about his intentions, saying he considered himself to be on "borrowed time." After his final game, he returned to the Superdome field in street clothes, embraced his wife, Brittany, and played catch with his children for nearly two hours. When Brady saw them on his way to the Tampa Bay bus, he stopped, chatted, threw passes to Brees children and hugged Brees before departing.

Still, Brees declined to confirm his plans until now, even throwing many for a loop when a video of one of his recent workouts appeared on social media.

"Congrats my friend on an incredible career," Brady said in a social media post Sunday. "Thank you for the inspiration and dedication on and off the field! Look forward to seeing what's next."

The Saints currently have one quarterback under contract: Taysom Hill, who went 3-1 as a starter during Brees absence in 2020. New Orleans also is expected to pursue another veteran QB to compete for a starting job, including free agent Jameis Winston, who spent 2020 as a Saints reserve.

Brees retirement brings an end to a career that came to embody resilience and renewal on multiple levels.

His most prolific seasons came after he underwent major reconstructive surgery in early 2006 to repair a career-threatening throwing shoulder injury.

He joined the Saints shortly after, at a time when New Orleans was still coping with widespread devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina in August 2005. When Brees moved to New Orleans, he bought and renovated a historic home in the city's Uptown neighborhood, just a block away from Audubon Park.

The storm had forced the Saints to play all of their 2005 games outside New Orleans, and the Saints finished that season 3-13.

"When I was hired by the Saints as head coach in 2006, the very first goal was to establish a functional and winning culture," Payton said. "It was vital to know what we were looking for in a player, talent, work ethic, makeup, intelligence and leadership are all qualities we found in Drew Brees. We also found a player with a burning desire to win."

With Payton calling plays and Brees executing them, the Saints won 10 regular-season games in 2006, and then won a divisional-round playoff game in a rebuilt Superdome — a storybook run that didn't end until a loss in Chicago in New Orleans' first ever NFC championship game. That would be the first of nine seasons in which Brees led the Saints to the playoffs.

"Drew is so much more valuable than all the records, awards and accolades that he amassed," Saints owner Gayle Benson said. "Drew came to represent the resolve, passion and drive that resonates not only with Saints fans and football fans, but our entire community."

The franchise's only Super Bowl appearance and championship came in the 2009 season, with Brees, selected as the game's MVP, memorably celebrating with first child Baylen in his arms as confetti floated around them.

Brees' 32 completions (on 39 attempts) tied a Super Bowl record, just one of numerous times the 6-foot-1 quarterback, drafted by the San Diego Chargers out of Purdue in the beginning of the second round of the 2001 draft, etched his name in NFL record books.

Indeed, the hallmarks of Brees' career have been his decision-making, timing and accuracy.

Brees not only holds the NFL's single-season record for completion rate at 74.4% in 2018, but also holds the second-highest mark at 74.3 in 2019 and third-highest at 72% in 2017.

His 70.5% rate in 2020 ranked ninth all time, giving Brees six of the top nine season completion rates in NFL history.

Payton's offenses were more passing oriented in some seasons than others for a variety of reasons related to personnel, the types of defenses the Saints faced and the way games played out.

But when Brees had to throw, he piled up yardage whether the Saints were a playoff team or not.

Brees eclipsed the 5,000-yard mark in five seasons, with his career-best 5,476 yards coming in 2011. That mark ranks second all time, one yard behind Peyton Manning's 5,477 yards with Denver in 2013. Brees' five 5,000-yard seasons all rank in the top 11 all time.

Brees also has been the unquestioned face of the franchise and leader in the locker room throughout his time in New Orleans. Teammates have often remarked that Brees was usually the first player to arrive at the team's training headquarters and last to leave.

Payton often spoke of his collaborative relationship with Brees in formulating the offensive game plan and routinely letting Brees call his own plays, particularly during hurry-up drives.

"Since I've been here Drew has been nothing but a good teammate, a good guy, great leader, and I respect him so much in all facets of his life," said center Erik McCoy, a two-year pro who grew up watching Brees and wound up snapping him the ball the past two seasons.

"The way that he came into work every day. He was always locked in. He was always on point. He was always sharp. ... I feel like that has kind of molded me."

While Brees was popular in San Diego during his first five NFL seasons, he became synonymous with New Orleans after signing with the Saints. He participated in marketing campaigns for the city's tourism industry, professed his affection for the community in countless interviews, talked up the city's renowned restaurant scene and was a celebrity rider in Mardi Gras parades. Between his Brees Dream foundation and his own personal work, Brees has donated or committed more than $35 million to charitable causes in New Orleans and the Gulf Coast region, according to his marketing agent, Chris Stuart.

THREE

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the top every single year. All throughout these three years, it's always been a new team every single year. I'm the only one who raced in all three races on the girls' team and I'm just so proud that every year we have so many new people interested and they want to paddle and they want to try something new," she said.

Aldan, who is an MHS senior, said this is her third and final year with the MHS paddling club and although she has no choice but to leave paddling behind to pursue higher education, the sport will remain with her and she will make sure to spend every moment she can on the ocean before she has to leave.

Team MHS also consists of Aleena Ada, Xyrene Apostol, Tiara Cepeda, Margarette Dolotina, Haeven Hocog, Angella Maratas, and Mikaela Vergara.

Team KHS is made up of Alisa Gatharngeg, Jenisha Dubrall, Davin Kim, Danika Tagabuel, Megan Barnes, Wallis Bai, Clarissa Tagabuel, Kiara Nekaifes, and Kata Iakopo.

The Lady Dolphins paddling club drew first blood in the preliminary round of races, leaving MHS in the dust.

In the preliminary round of the 500m dash, MHS completed the course in 3:24 to gain 10 points. The Lady Ayuyus lagged behind its opponent by over 10 seconds to finish with a time of 3:34.98.

Later in the preliminaries of the 1,000m, MHS showed no mercy taking the lead from the start to finish at 07:06.25. KHS followed shortly submitting a time of 07:28.25.

In the finals round, the Lady Dolphins continued to dominate, completing the 500m dash in 03:17.67. KHS finished 13 seconds later at 03:30.88.

The 1,000m finals was a much closer race. The Lady Ayuyus nearly overtook MHS in the first go-around but MHS, adamant about sweeping the fourth and final race of the series, trudged forward and completed the race in 07:17. 71 while KHS came in at 07:24:40.

The Public School System Student Support Services Athletic Program held the canoe series with assistance from Northern Marianas Paddle Sports. Results of the co-ed competition will be published tomorrow.

AIR FORCE

From Page 20

ships last November and one of the Oceania Weightlifting Email tournaments last December.

On how he got his start in the sport, Cristobal said his journey to weightlifting started with basketball and track and field and learning the clean and jerk as part of cross training with national basketball coach Eli Rangamar. "Over time, the sport of weightlifting grew on me and I hope to continue to get better in the future…I started competitive weightlifting during my first year in the U.S. Air Force Academy."

Cristobal has a simple advice for those who want to pursue the sport of weightlifting. "I suggest reaching out to CNMI Weightlifting or weightlifters on island and see if they are willing to mentor and guide you through the sport. It's important to have that support group and have people push you to become better. Lastly, the biggest thing for me is having fun and to find something you love about the sport. That way, you can remain consistent and motivate yourself to continue to get better," he said.

Green has triple-double, Warriors beat NBA-leading Jazz

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Sports

Record-setting Saints' Brees announces retirement at 42

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Three in a row for Lady Dolphins

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Marianas High School women's paddling team poses for a photo after being awarded its third consecutive championship plaque for the 2020-2021 Public School System Interscholastic High School Canoe Series that concluded last Saturday.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

The Marianas High School paddling team completes their final race of the 2020-2021 Public School System Interscholastic High School Canoe Series that concluded last Saturday in the waters off Kilili Beach..

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Marianas High School successfully defended its championship for the third straight year in the women's division of the 2020-2021 Public School System Interscholastic High School Canoe Series that concluded last Saturday.

The Lady Dolphins swept the last round of races last Saturday in the waters off Kilili Beach and earned 40 points to be named canoe champions anew.

MHS only had to go head-to-head against Kagman High School because Saipan Southern High School forfeited as a result of the recent surge of positive COVID-19 cases.

MHS team captain Tianna Aldan, who has been with the team for every championship, said that every single year, the MHS women's paddling crew works hard to come out on top.

"Every year we work hard and we push through and that's why we've made it to

See THREE on Page 19

Air Force cadet Cristobal finishes 2nd in college weightlifting

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

U.S. Air Force cadet Leowell Cristobal finished second in his division in the recent USA Weightlifting North American Open Series 1.

The 22-year-old Marianas High School alumnus finished runner-up in the 67B weight class with a 90-kg lift in the snatch and a 115-kg lift in the clean and jerk for a total of 205 kg.

Those totals were also good enough for sixth place overall in the 2021 University National Championships. Due to COVID-19 concerns, Cristobal competed virtually in the Cadet Gymnasium of the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

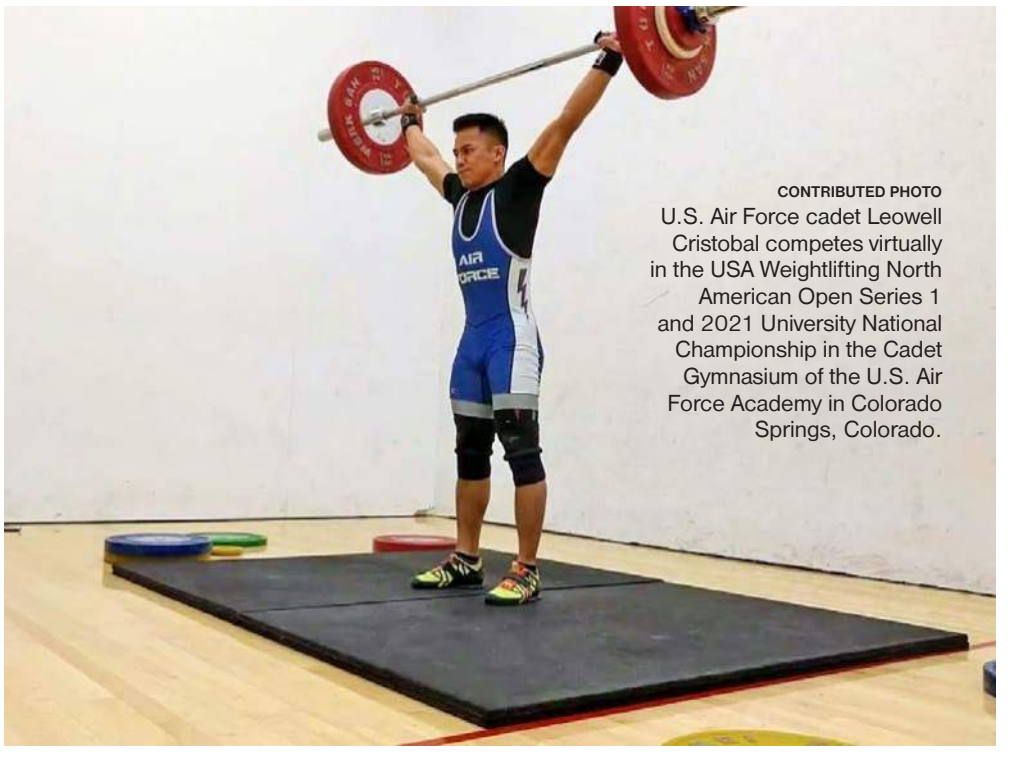
"The competition combined both the American Open Series and University Nationals. I represented the Air Force Academy and got second under the former and overall I was tied for sixth place in the 67 weight class under University Nationals," he said in a social media message to the *Saipan Tribune*.

Not bad for his first Nationals, as growing up the son of Leonardo Sr. and Ana Marie of Gualo Rai played basketball and was even part of the CNMI Men's National Basketball Team in the 2014 Micronesian Games at Pohnpei.

"Overall, I did pretty well considering I have gone up from 180 kg total from the Colorado State Championships last November to 205 kg total for this competition. That's a 25-kg improvement within the past five months! I hope to continue to get better and hopefully represent the CNMI once more during the Pacific Mini Games/Micronesian Games next year," he said.

Before representing the U.S. Air Force in the Nationals, Cristobal competed in the Colorado State Champion-

See AIR FORCE on Page 19



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

U.S. Air Force cadet Leowell Cristobal competes virtually in the USA Weightlifting North American Open Series 1 and 2021 University National Championship in the Cadet Gymnasium of the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.